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THE NORTHERN HIGHLANDS IN THE
NINETEENTH CENTURY.



The Northern Highlands
IN THE
Nineteenth Century.

NEWSPAPER INDEX AND ANNALS

(From the "Inverness Courier.")

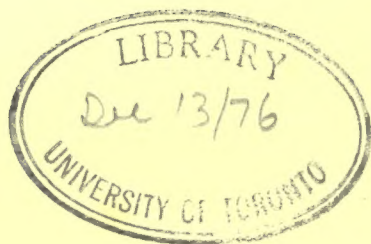
By JAMES BARRON.

Volume II.—1825-1841.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THE present volume of newspaper extracts and annals, forming the second of the series, covers the period from the beginning of 1825 to the end of 1841. The extracts are arranged in chronological order, and brought into contact with national history by an introductory note for each year. The General Introduction is an attempt to give a summary of the changes that occurred in the Northern Highlands during the period. The compiler begs to acknowledge the services of Mr William Simpson in preparing the index, and of Mr Alexander Ritchie in supervising the volume for the press.

INVERNESS, May 1907.

E R R A T A.

Page 79, April 21 and 28.—“Ben Nevis” should be “Ben Wyvis.”

Page 238, November 28 —The paragraph should read that one of the causes of the building of a Secession Church in Tain was “that the heritors had imposed enormous seat rents on the people.”

Page 307, July 7, 4th entry.—The name of the parochial teacher in Ardersier whose death is recorded, is given as “James Smith,” but it seems to have been “John Smith.” See presentation recorded November 14, 1838.

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MAP OF INVERNESS IN 1832, at end of volume.—This is a reproduction, on a reduced scale and without colouring, of the map issued in the Parliamentary "Reports upon the Boundaries of the several cities, burghs, and towns of Scotland, in respect to the election of members to serve in Parliament," ordered to be printed 18th April 1832. In the Report accompanying the map, the Commissioners say:—"Inverness is the county town of the large shire of that name, and also generally regarded as the Capital of the Northern Highlands. The town is compact, and the streets regular, with large and well-provided shops; and it contains a great number of wealthy and respectable inhabitants. Many handsome villas are also erected in the neighbourhood. There are manufactures of woollen goods, hemp, and leather; and at the fairs sheep and wool to a great amount are disposed of. The harbour of Inverness is good, and frequented by a number of vessels of considerable tonnage. Intercourse by steam has been established with Aberdeen and Edinburgh, and also with the Western coast through the Caledonian Canal; and smacks sail regularly to London, conveying both goods and passengers. The Caledonian Canal has not hitherto added much to the commerce of the district, but beneficial effects may be expected to result from that great work. The town has been recently lighted with gas, and well supplied with water; and the Academy is considered one

of the best in Scotland. Inverness is a very thriving place, and likely to increase." The population of the burgh and parish, at the census of 1831, is given as 14,324; number of houses of £10 and upwards in the burgh, 452; assessed taxes payable from the burgh, £1085 7s 10d. The Commissioners, after describing the boundary fixed by them, add:—"From the great probability of Inverness increasing, considerable space has been included within the boundary. This has been considered especially necessary in the vicinity of the Caledonian Canal, as an increase of the traffic on that great line of communication would be immediately followed by the erection of buildings in that direction. A considerable extent of the Merkinch has been already taken on a building lease, in the expectation of the town extending in that quarter." The ultimate development of the town differed from the expectations of the Commissioners. It came, indeed, on the west side of the river, but to a still greater extent on the terrace above the old burgh, part of which remains outside the Parliamentary boundary, though recently brought within the municipal area.

INTRODUCTION.

THE period from 1825 to 1841 embraced in the present volume was full of changes in our national history. These changes are reflected in the annals of the Highlands, which had also developments and vicissitudes peculiar to themselves. An interval of quiet which existed at the beginning of the period was succeeded by prolonged controversy in the political world. The Act of Catholic Emancipation in 1829 introduced novel elements into the British Legislature, and the Reform Act of 1832 created a new franchise in counties and burghs, bringing with it for ten years the rule of Whig Governments and the animated discussions which their measures called forth. Municipal government was likewise transformed. Railways began with the line from Manchester to Liverpool in 1830. Steamships had previously been utilised for coasting purposes and for short voyages, but the first steamers to cross the Atlantic and inaugurate an ocean service made their voyages in 1838. In the same year the scheme of penny postage proposed by Rowland Hill forced itself on public attention, and in 1840 the new system came into operation. The reduction of taxes on newspapers brought down the price of Scottish journals from sevenpence to fourpence-halfpenny, a step which was then considered a great advance, qualified by misgivings as to the possible deterioration of the press! Education was making progress in the remote and neglected districts of Scotland through the efforts of the Church. The first public grant for English education, the modest sum of £20,000, was given by Parliament in 1833. Sheep farming expanded in the Highlands, and there was a steady progress in agriculture. The first show of the Highland Society was held at Inverness in 1831, the second in 1839.

The record, however, is not altogether one of progress.

The condition of the western islands and of congested districts in the northern mainland was going from bad to worse. Population had increased beyond the means of subsistence. Accounts which appear in our newspaper reports, confirmed by the inquiry of a Parliamentary Committee, form painful reading. Emigration took place on a large scale, mainly in the first instance to British North America, but latterly also to Australia. At the same time, knowledge of the Highlands was extending through increased facilities of travel provided by steamers and coaches. In the thirties sport began to be a recognised element of income. In the towns and the more accessible regions there was evidence of advancement. Better houses were built, roads were completed, the burghs were lighted with gas, the local administration of affairs was improved by the establishment of forces of constabulary and the better equipment of Courts. The old prisons, which had long been a scandal, were giving place to a superior class of buildings. New lighthouses were springing up on the coasts. A severe visitation of cholera in 1832 caused great distress and anxiety, but it had some effect in directing attention to the necessity of sanitation. Customs and practices of old standing tended to disappear. The period was, in brief, the beginning of the modern era. A revolution was taking place, carrying with it, like most revolutions, a mixture of blessing, suffering, and danger. Towards the close, the Church of Scotland had embarked on the great controversy which shortly afterwards ended in the Disruption.

When the period began Lord Liverpool was still at the head of affairs, assisted by a Cabinet which was divided on the subject of Catholic claims and on commercial questions. The representation of Scottish burghs was entirely in the hands of Town Councils, which voted through their Provosts, and gave little trouble to the Government. Within the burghs there was at the moment more desire for municipal than political reform. The remark that "even in some instances burghs are

almost advertising for members to represent them," must have been of very partial application, but it indicates the spirit which prevailed in some quarters in prospect of the election of 1826. In the counties during that election there was more excitement, and Charles Grant, afterwards Lord Glenelg, had to face a contest in the county of Inverness, the first that had taken place since the election of his father in a three-cornered fight in 1802. His opponent, Lord Macdonald, however, was decisively beaten. Grant was favourable to Catholic claims, but otherwise cautious and accommodating.

The death of the Premier, Lord Liverpool, in 1827 let loose many rivalries and jealousies. Canning, who succeeded him in the office of Prime Minister, was unable to retain his most important colleagues, and passed away in a few months, leaving a distracted situation. Lord Goderich's attempt to carry on an administration came to a premature end, and the Duke of Wellington was installed in office, with Sir Robert Peel as leader of the House of Commons. The Whigs, including Charles Grant, were represented in the Ministry, but they soon had differences with their colleagues, and resigned. The victory of the Catholic Association, the election of O'Connell for Clare, and the concession of Catholic Emancipation, introduced the stormy period. Great distress existed both in the rural and manufacturing population, and discontent brought about the desire for political reform. George IV. died in June 1830, and the accession of William IV. came just at the time when the public temper was excited. An extraordinary stimulus was given to the reform movement by the revolution in France and the revolt which severed the temporary union of Belgium and Holland. Before the close of the year Wellington's Government was defeated, and Earl Grey entered on office, with the understanding that he was to take up the subject of Reform. The agitation on the subject did not slacken until the bill was

passed in the summer of 1832. Then began the reign of the ten-pound householders in burghs and the fifty-pounders in counties. As we have said, the Whigs, first under Earl Grey and afterwards under Lord Melbourne, had possession of the Government until 1841, although for a short time, at the summons of the Sovereign, Sir Robert Peel intervened, and attempted, without success, to secure a Conservative majority. In the years from 1830 to 1841, there were no fewer than six general elections. In the Inverness Burghs this number was supplemented by two bye-elections, and in the county by three. There was not a contest on every occasion, but the weapons were kept sharpened, and a contest was only avoided when the defeated forces were exhausted and hopeless. During the last five years the Whig Government, under Lord Melbourne, was weak and discredited, though it did useful work. When it fell in 1841, Sir Robert Peel entered on office with a majority of sixty-eight, and with the prospect of a long tenure of power. The rise of new conditions, through the agitation for the abolition of the Corn Laws and the famine in Ireland, belongs to a later period.

The change in political conditions imparted fresh life to the newspapers. For the eleven years from 1830 to 1841 political contests and speeches were at high pressure. In 1830 Charles Grant had to encounter another contest in the county of Inverness. His retirement from the Duke of Wellington's Government and his support of Catholic claims had given offence. At a preliminary trial of strength, however, on the election of a chairman at the meeting of freeholders, Grant had a majority of nine votes (34 to 25), and his opponent, Macleod of Macleod, withdrew. At the election of 1831, when the country rang with the shout of "The bill, the whole bill, and nothing but the bill," Grant was returned without opposition, receiving in the burgh a great ovation. In 1832, in the new constituency, he had a majority against Macleod of 44. But before another election a reaction

had taken place. In 1835 Grant fought his last battle for the county, and, with a majority of seven, was once more returned. But the reconstituted Melbourne Government, in which he became Colonial Secretary, did not care to risk a bye-election, and he was raised to the Upper House as Lord Glenelg. In the contest which followed, Chisholm of Chisholm carried the seat for the Conservatives, and though he was soon removed by death, the county did not return to its former allegiance. On the contrary, it retained unbroken its political complexion as Conservative for the long term of fifty years. Two members held the seat for forty-five years—Mr Henry Baillie from 1840 to 1868, and the late Cameron of Lochiel from 1868 to 1885.

In the burghs during the period there were numerous contests. Sir Robert Grant, younger brother of Charles, held the representation from 1826 to 1830, but for some reason, which was supposed to be personal, the municipal authorities declined to re-elect him, choosing in his place Colonel Baillie of Leys, an Anglo-Indian, who had made himself popular in Inverness as a neighbour. In 1831—when the old system still prevailed—Major Cumming Bruce secured the support of Nairn and Forres, and was elected. In 1832, in the new constituency, there was a three-cornered fight, between Colonel Baillie, Mr Stewart of Belladrum (who stood as a Liberal), and Major Cumming Bruce; and Colonel Baillie won the seat. In a few months, however, he died, and the burghs had to go through another contest. On this occasion the struggle was between Major Cumming Bruce and Mr Stewart, and the former was successful. He represented the constituency for other four years. An attempt was made to oust him in 1835, when a keen contest occurred between himself and Mr Edward Ellice, but Cumming Bruce triumphed with the small majority of four votes. Personally, "The Major" was a popular candidate, combative, frank, and determined; and Ellice, clever and

agreeable as he was, had the disadvantage of being a stranger. Cumming Bruce had strong support in Forres, where he was well known, and the family influence was powerful. In Inverness itself he divided the vote so evenly that he was only in a minority of one. But the expense of contesting the burghs was too much for him. The contest of 1835, it is said, cost himself and Mr Ellice £1500 a-piece—a sum so large that the tradition of profuse pecuniary gifts distributed during the canvass may have had a substantial foundation. At the general election of 1837, Major Cumming Bruce retired, but did all he could to secure the return, in the Conservative interest, of the heir of Scatwell, afterwards Sir James R. Mackenzie. The effort failed. The burghs broke with the Conservatives. The Whig candidate, Mr Macleod of Cadboll, carried the seat by a majority of 19. Unfortunately, his health failed, and in 1840 he resigned, causing a bye-election. On this occasion the contest lay between a London merchant, Mr James Morrison, and a native of Inverness, Mr John Fraser, Cromarty House. Mr Morrison was successful, and at the general election next year was re-elected without opposition.

In the County of Ross, Mr Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth, who was a reformer, secured the representation in 1830, and continued to hold it until 1837, when he was appointed Governor of Ceylon. On his retirement there was an exciting contest, which resulted in the return of the Conservative candidate, Mr Mackenzie of Applecross. In the Northern Burghs and the County of Sutherland the Whig interest prevailed.

In going through the newspapers of the Reform period, the reader finds that political dinners were a prominent characteristic. Before the passing of the Franchise Act it was the custom for members on their election to entertain their supporters, and sometimes the successful and unsuccessful candidates gave dinner parties the same evening, and exchanged deputations. The

dinner given by Colonel Baillie of Leys on his return in 1830 was a sumptuous affair, with turtles from London and wines of the finest. When the franchise had been extended the electors themselves took the initiative. After nearly every contest—and sometimes between times—there was a feast. On occasion each party in each burgh had its banquet to celebrate a triumph, to find solace for defeat, or to prepare for future efforts. The Reform struggle called forth public meetings and processions as well as dinners. The oratory is copiously reported. Generally the speaking, most of it no doubt carefully prepared, was eloquent and appropriate. The passion of the hour lingers in the musty columns. The student of politics can still find interest in arguments, denunciations, and witticisms, albeit the flavour is antiquarian. Popular gatherings of the kind were new in the North, and on that account the more appreciated. What is described as “the first open meeting ever held in Inverness for a political purpose” was carried out under the auspices of the Reform Committee in May 1832. It was preceded by a procession of trades and public bodies, with banners flying. One of the greatest dinners, a Conservative demonstration, was held in November 1836 at Invergordon, where a building which was used as a flax factory was arranged to accommodate 247 persons. To furnish supplies a shipload of provisions was brought from Inverness. In the reaction which followed Reform political enthusiasm was stimulated by an ecclesiastical upheaval. The Whigs were accused of truckling to O’Connell. The Ministerial proposals regarding Irish Church funds and tithes inflamed opposition. In 1835-6 a northern Protestant association came into existence, and the feeling of which it was the expression helped to detach the counties from the Whig interest. Since then Ireland has often upset political parties, and the end is not yet in sight.

A picturesque incident in our local annals was the visit of Lord Brougham while Lord Chancellor. In the autumn of 1834 he made a trip northward, coming by way

of Badenoch, travelling thence to Dunrobin, and going back by the east coast. At that time his reputation in the provinces stood high, although his flighty and violent character had alienated alike his colleagues and the King. Brougham's northern tour resembled a Royal progress. He was hailed by admiring crowds, and addresses and burgess tickets poured in from corporations. The visit precipitated his own downfall and the dismissal of the Ministry. His speech at Inverness reads as if he had not been quite master of himself. In his political allusions he fanned the differences in the party, and his references to the King were a curious mixture of fawning and familiarity. He spoke of his Majesty's gracious condescension and favour to himself, and announced that by that night's post he would inform him of the fervent loyalty of the Highland Capital. He had hardly returned home when the King dismissed the Ministry, and called in the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel. It was a false move on the sovereign's part. The nation once more returned a majority on behalf of a Whig Government. But at least the Sovereign and the Ministers got rid of Brougham, who was never called again to office. The end to a great political career—for in spite of all deductions his career had great elements—was thus singularly dramatic. There are touches in our columns which set forth the personality of the statesman who then filled such a large space in the public eye. Brougham had an immense capacity for work. It is mentioned that "he wrote seventeen long letters with his own hand after his memorable speech at Inverness, all which were duly forwarded by that night's post"—presumably the promised letter to the King among the number. In the town he ordered Highland tartans, and there is a tradition that the order being vague in its terms, he was supplied with a quantity which lasted in perpetuity. Four years afterwards there is a note that in London he had laid aside, "at least for a time," the tartan trousers and waistcoat which he had worn since his northern tour. Whether

resumed or not, they had proved so distinctive that they continued in favour with caricaturists.

Another incident in connection with the Chancellor's tour was not recorded at the time, but appeared afterwards in the memoirs of Sir David Brewster, who was living in Badenoch in the thirties. Brougham was the guest of the Duchess of Bedford at the Doune of Rothiemurchus, and Brewster was one of the party. After the Chancellor had retired to rest, on the plea of indisposition, the question arose whether he carried the Great Seal with him. "The Duchess declared her intention of ascertaining the fact, and ordered a cake of soft dough to be made. A procession of lords, ladies, and gentlemen was then formed, Sir David carrying a pair of silver candlesticks, and the Duchess bearing a silver salver, on which was placed the dough. The invalid lord was roused from his first sleep by this strange procession, and a peremptory demand that he should get up and exhibit the Great Seal; he whispered ruefully to Sir David that the first half of this request he could not possibly comply with, but asked him to bring a certain strange-looking box; when this was done he gravely sat up—impressed the seal upon the cake of dough—the procession retired in order, and the Lord Chancellor returned to his pillow." This specimen of "high jinks" was a prelude to the tragi-comedy of the subsequent part of his tour.

The reform of municipalities in Scotland was carried out in 1833 by two bills introduced by Lord Advocate Jeffrey, dealing with Royal and Parliamentary burghs. His measures gave the same municipal franchise for Town Councils as for Parliament, and the old system of self-election came to an end. Before the close of the year the new Town Councils were chosen. The first Provost of Inverness under the changed system was Mr John Mackenzie, agent for the Bank of Scotland, who had taken a prominent part in support of political reform. So highly was he esteemed that prior to the formation of the new

Council he was presented with a handsome piece of plate "in acknowledgment of his strenuous and valuable services in support of popular rights during Earl Grey's administration, a period of the highest importance to the political independence and welfare of the nation." Mr Mackenzie was unable, on account of the state of his health, to retain office for more than a year, but his services during that short period were much appreciated. He was succeeded by Mr John Fraser, father of the late Rev. Dr Donald Fraser, who held office for two years. He might have retained the position longer if he and his friends had known that, being Provost, and so chosen for three years, he was not obliged to seek re-election in 1836. In the contest which ensued he was defeated in one ward, and though elected in another, he preferred to retire. Political feeling at the moment played an active part in municipal affairs, and for a time, apart from the Provostship, the Council was equally divided between Whigs and Tories. In such a condition of affairs the vote of the Provost was of importance. The Whig Councillors at one juncture—the election of a member between terms—committed the mistake of absenting themselves so as to deprive the meeting of a quorum. The remaining members, however, attended the meeting, and elected their man, and the legality of their action was upheld in the Court of Session. The tension of municipal elections kept the burgh almost as lively as Parliamentary contests. In the seven years from 1833 to 1840 four Provosts came and went—Messrs Mackenzie, Fraser, Ferguson, and Cumming—the last retiring when he was defeated in the nomination of bailies. Provost Ferguson was the only one of the four who occupied his full term. On the retirement of Provost Cumming, Dr J. I. Nicol was elected to the vacancy in the Council and called to the chair. He was re-elected the following year. All this time, however, the conduct of local affairs was carried on with spirit. The question whether there should be a legal assessment for the poor served to abate political dissension. The proposal arose

in the Kirk-Session, but the Town Council by a large majority opposed it. In the neighbouring burghs also political feeling mingled with local questions, and stimulated the activity of the electorate. In the circumstances of the day this state of matters was inevitable, and worked no particular harm.

Before passing from municipal changes, it may be noted that one of the first acts of the Inverness Town Council was to abolish the office of burgh hangman, a functionary who had enjoyed considerable remuneration and numerous perquisites. We are told that in the nineteen years during which the last occupant held the appointment he had carried out "just three executions," and that calculating the proportion of annual payments, the cost might be reckoned at from £300 to £400 a piece. The third of these gruesome services was performed in the case of Macleod, the Assynt murderer, who paid the penalty of his crime in October 1831. In October 1835, however, another man, Adam, was executed for the Mulbuy murder. There is no mention in our files of the man who performed this duty. Happily Adam was the last person executed in Inverness.

The Church of Scotland held undisputed supremacy in the Highlands during the period of which we are writing. Its activity in discharge of its duties deserves ample acknowledgment. There was very little dissent. The large size, however, of many of the parishes crippled the usefulness of the clergy, and it was considered a great advance when a Parliamentary grant, given in 1823, secured the addition of forty ministers to the equipment of the National Church. A report on education, prepared in 1825 by the Rev. Donald Fraser, of Kirkhill, states that even with these new appointments there were only 264 clergy in the Establishment (including 40 missionaries) for a population of 416,000 persons, embraced in the counties of Argyll, Inverness, Nairn, Ross and Cromarty, Sutherland, Caithness, Orkney, and Shetland,

with the Gaelic districts of Moray, and of Dunkeld, in Perthshire. In the same wide region there were at that time only thirty-five ministers of "every denomination of dissenters," and six or eight Roman Catholic priests. Episcopalian Churches are set down as six in number, and the congregations of "Seceders, Independents, and other Protestant dissenters" at twenty-nine. The following detailed figures may be of interest:—Episcopalians—Synod of Moray, 1 (obviously in Inverness); Synod of Glenelg, 2; Synod of Ross, 2; Synod of Argyll, 1—total, 6. Seceders, &c.—Synod of Moray, 5; Ross, 3; Sutherland and Caithness, 3; Argyll, 7; Orkney and Shetland (English-speaking), 11—total, 29. Within the Established Church the two parties known as Moderate and Evangelical had conflicts between themselves, but they co-operated for the improvement of the people. Though a large part of the population was unable to read, they all entertained great respect for religious ordinances, and attended service when they had opportunity. Communion gatherings were large and impressive. Disputed settlements occasionally excited keen feelings, as may be seen from the newspaper columns. In some places—they do not appear to have been numerous—religious services were carried on by local religious leaders, but the people in those cases rarely disapproved of the National Church as an institution. Towards the end of our period the conflict arising from the Veto Act engrossed a large amount of public attention, but within the limits covered by our volume the organisation of the Church remained unbroken.

The work of education in the Highlands was carried on with earnestness. The Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, formed under the auspices of the Church in 1704, did an excellent work in supplementing the parish schools, which in number were totally inadequate. A limited edition of a version of the Bible in Irish Gaelic was issued about the close of the seventeenth century, but the New Testament in Scottish Gaelic was first

printed for the Society in 1769. It was not until 1802 that the whole Bible was published in that language. The Gaelic School Society was founded in Edinburgh in 1811, and in 1818 a Society was formed in Inverness for the Education of the Poor in the Highlands, for which the report above-mentioned was prepared by the Rev. Donald Fraser, of Kirkhill. But further efforts were felt to be necessary. Dr Norman Macleod — “Caraid nan Gaidheal,” the Friend of the Highlanders — urged the subject on the Assembly in 1824, and a deputation consisting of himself, Principal Baird, and Mr John Gordon, the secretary, afterwards traversed the Highlands and Islands. A revenue cruiser was placed at their disposal in the western seas. In 1828 they reported that they had travelled upwards of 1600 miles, having spent two months on their journey. The visit established the melancholy fact that 90,000 persons, between the ages of six and twenty years, could read neither English nor Gaelic. During the first two years seventy schools were opened, and statistics show that ultimately this Assembly scheme resulted in the establishment of 233 common schools, attended by 22,000 pupils, with 110 sewing schools besides. In the eighteenth century schools the reading and even the speaking of Gaelic was forbidden, but this led to a mechanical kind of teaching which did little good to the learner. The Gaelic School Society provided Gaelic spelling books, though Mr William Mackay says that in spite of this “the bad old system long survived in some districts.” The late Rev. Dr Kenneth Macdonald, born in Glen-Urquhart in 1832, corroborates this statement. “Our schoolbooks,” he says, “were in English, and not a sentence could we understand.” Dr Macleod from the first set his face against this system. In a speech in London in 1844, he drew special attention to the fact that in the General Assembly’s schools the Highlanders received instruction through the medium of their own beloved language. “Some present,” he said, “may object to this system, as in their opinion unfavourable to the

cultivation of English, but this is not the case. I am quite satisfied that had we no higher object in view than the introduction of English, we could not more effectually do it than through the medium of Gaelic. This system has done more to introduce English in the course of the last twenty years than the old system—that of teaching through an unknown tongue—could do in a century.” Dr Macleod’s opinion is thus stated with no little emphasis. Certainly since his day Gaelic has gone back, and the knowledge of English has been vastly extended.

It must not be forgotten that while ignorance prevailed in the body of the people, an educated clergy lived in the Highland parishes, and disseminated an influence of culture as well as of religion. Dr Johnson found this to be the case during his famous Tour in 1773. The late Mr Sage, of Resolis, born in 1789, relates the manner of his education in Latin in his father’s manse at Kildonan. “With my father,” he says, “I read Cordery’s Colloquies, Cornelius Nepos, Cæsar, Sallust, Ovid, Virgil, Livy, and Horace, and along with these I was so carefully instructed in the rules of Watt’s Latin grammar that I shall not forget them as long as I live. . . . As I advanced in the knowledge of Latin, my father prescribed my Sabbath tasks in that language. I began with Castalio’s Dialogues, and, when farther advanced, read Buchanan’s Psalms.” Mr Leask, in his Life of the late Dr Thomas Maclauchlan, who was born in 1816, says that Maclauchlan was educated in a similar way in his father’s manse at Moy. There also he became familiar with the Gaelic hymns of Dugald Buchanan, which “had an immense influence on the character of the Highlands.” Nor was this all. The popular tales which were circulated among the people captivated young Maclauchlan, and in later days he was of service to Campbell of Islay in forming his collection. “Such,” says Mr Leask, “was the educative force in the North at the time—Latin and folk-lore, the marches of the country. Whether a newer race, reared in Board schools and on scientific extracts, crammed with the

tributaries of the Danube and the length of the Brahmaputra and the Irrawady, is more adequately prepared than was the old, trained on the Latin grammar and the national history, is a question which Aberdeen graduates have not yet sufficiently considered." Let us hope, however, that modern education is not so defective as the writer apprehends.

The clergy in the North at the time comprised names that were locally influential, and are not yet forgotten. The Rev. Dr Rose, who was associated chiefly with the Inverness High Church, was an impressive preacher, and had a position in the Northern Counties, says a biographical sketch, "which subsequent generations can hardly realise, as he left nothing behind to show the qualities and resources of his character." His colleague, the Rev. Alexander Clark, was another minister of great mental activity and a powerful preacher. The West Church, built for him, was opened in 1840. The North Church was erected in 1837, to secure the services of the Rev. Archibald Cook, afterwards of Daviot, whose piety was peculiarly acceptable to the Gaelic people. In the Presbytery of Inverness, the Rev. Donald Fraser, of Kirkhill, was the acknowledged leader of the Evangelical party in the district. He died suddenly from the effects of an accident in 1836. The most inspiring pulpit orator, however, was Dr Macdonald, of Ferintosh, known as the Apostle of the North from his work as an evangelist in the Highlands. Along with him may be mentioned the Rev. John Kennedy, of Killearnan (father of the late Dr Kennedy, of Dingwall), Mr Carment, of Rosskeen; and Hugh Miller's friend, Mr Stewart, of Cromarty.

In our first volume we gave statistics relating to the population in the beginning of the century in the five (nominally six) Northern Counties of Inverness, Nairn, Ross, and Cromarty, Sutherland and Caithness. In the year 1801 the total population of these counties was 183,038, and in 1821 it had risen to 221,012. In the

beginning of the twentieth century the population in the same region reached 231,155, showing an increase of 48,117 as compared with the first date, and of 10,143 as compared with the second. But in the period which we have now reached the comparison gives quite different results. The population in the five counties, reckoning them as a whole, went on increasing until the middle of the nineteenth century, and after that fell off steadily until in 1901 the total was actually 7863 lower than in 1831, 15,671 lower than in 1841, and 22,510 lower than in 1851. During the half-century from 1851 onwards, the population of Scotland rose from 2,888,742 to 4,472,103, but the large cities and industrial centres account for the increase. While rural districts have suffered everywhere, the decrease in the Northern area is specially marked. As it happens, the population of the county of Inverness reached its highest in the year 1841, but the gross total of the five counties attained its maximum in the next decade. For convenience, we embrace the year 1851 in the present comparison. The figures for the three decades ending in that year come out as follows:—

| | 1831 | 1841 | 1851 |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Inverness | 94,797 | 97,799 | 96,500 |
| Nairnshire | 9,354 | 9,217 | 9,956 |
| Ross, and Cromarty | 74,820 | 78,685 | 82,707 |
| Sutherland | 25,518 | 24,782 | 25,793 |
| Caithness | 34,529 | 36,343 | 38,709 |
| | <u>239,018</u> | <u>246,826</u> | <u>253,665</u> |

The population of the same counties in 1901 was as follows:—

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Inverness | 90,104 |
| Nairn | 9,291 |
| Ross and Cromarty | 76,450 |
| Sutherland | 21,440 |
| Caithness | 33,870 |
| | <u>231,155</u> |

The continuous decrease which reached such dimensions

in 1901 did not, it is to be feared, end there. No doubt can be entertained that during the last five years there has been a further falling off. In many material respects progress was made during the past half-century, but in the matter of population the decay is serious. At the bottom of it all economic causes play an important part. The evictions which took place from time to time have fixed themselves in public memory, but they can only be regarded as lamentable incidents in a widespread movement. As a matter of fact, most of them occurred either in the first two decades of the nineteenth century, or in the middle of it when population was at its culminating point. The stream of migration and emigration from the Highlands is part of a great problem, affecting many parts of the world as well as this country. Canada is at the present time draining us of our most active youth. The situation as it now exists is only an intensified form of a process which has long been going on. A typical case is presented by the parish of Urquhart and Glenmoriston, which had a population of 2663 in 1801 and of 3280 in 1851; whereas in 1901 it had fallen to 1828. The reduction, says Mr William Mackay, the historian of the parish, "is accounted for by the fact that the young men are not now satisfied with remaining at home as their fathers did, but go out into the world, and that the young women also go out to better themselves elsewhere." The truth is that in the Highlands our natural resources are limited. We have no minerals to develop. Water-power may come to be useful, but it is only at the stage of experiment. Sheep-farming fell on evil times, and its area has certainly diminished one-third, perhaps nearly one-half, during the last twenty years. Deer forests have kept up values, but they are incompatible with a numerous population. The growth of villages as summer and health resorts, and the increase of towns which possess golf-links, are the most apparent signs of advance. The Crofters Act has diminished discontent, and has helped in many quarters to improve

dwellings, but it has not stopped the decline of population. Such conditions present a problem which has not yet been considered as a whole. All that need be said here is that in the interests of the Highlands the claims of sport, of agriculture, of small holdings, of pastoral farming, and of the village residents, must all be kept in view. To disregard any one of them is perilous. The fact that people nowadays will not live under former conditions, especially when they have hopes of making comfortable homes elsewhere; the fact that sheep farming succumbed to a fall in prices, the deterioration of pastures, and the increase in the expense of working; the fact also that without sporting rents the weight of taxation would become crushing in its severity—all these facts and others like them have to be pondered in seeking a solution of the difficulties of the time.

In the period which the present volume covers we have to do with the state of the Highlands under the conditions which then prevailed. While the population was numerous and increasing, a great amount of distress existed. This, indeed, was not confined to the Highlands. The fluctuations in industry and in agricultural prices called forth frequent complaints from other parts of the country. Those social troubles which produced the Chartist movement were in active operation. In the Highlands, however, the case was aggravated at an early stage by sudden changes in the law which had made kelp gathering for nearly forty years a remunerative industry on the West Coast and in the Islands. It is with this region that the present pages chiefly deal. Kelp produced an alkali which formed an ingredient in the manufacture of soap and other commodities. The same substance could be obtained at a cheaper rate from Spanish barilla, but a heavy duty kept it out. This duty rose from £5 5s per ton in 1787 to £11 per ton in 1819, and the price of alkali rose in proportion. But the manufacturers clamoured for reduction—rightly enough

from their point of view—and succeeded in obtaining it. In 1822 the duty of barilla was reduced to £8, in 1823 to £5, and in 1830 to £2. At a later date it was removed altogether, but even before that time the reductions inflicted great hardship on a poor population. The price of alkali fell from £11 per ton to £4. It is said that at the height of the kelp industry from 40,000 to 50,000 people were dependent on it. The steady growth of population intensified the misery which followed. Landlords became embarrassed as well as people; yet it is not to be forgotten that landlords often endeavoured to provide work to stave off destitution. It is recorded, for instance, that in Skye in 1828 a sum of £15,000 had been spent in this way on the Macdonald estates.

Throughout the period there are constant references to distress and to emigration. In the summer of 1828 two vessels sailed from Lochmaddy for Canada, with 600 souls on board, and others were preparing to follow. In 1829 vessels left Skye for Cape Breton; in 1830 “the fever of emigration” was raging in the county of Sutherland, and vessels departed for Canada carrying, it is said, over 900 persons. At a meeting in Edinburgh in 1831, to present a memorial against the reduction of the duty on barilla, it was stated that in the Uists and Benbecula the population numbered 12,500 persons, and that 7000 or 8000 had no means of support, except the gathering of kelp. The representation had no effect. It was a question of diverse interests, in which the remote and the weaker went to the wall. An entry in July 1831 states that the poor people in the islands were most wretched. “Their best food consists of shell-fish, and a kind of broth made of sea-weed, nettles, and other wild plants, into which is infused a small sprinkling of oatmeal.” In 1836 the island of Lewis suffered terribly from a cold spring, which destroyed the lambs and caused the death of several thousand sheep and 700 head of cattle and horses. Next year we are told that the failure of the crops in the western districts for two successive seasons had intensified

the distress, and an appeal for assistance was made both to England and Scotland. The want of fuel in Skye drove some of the people to demolish their turf huts, the dispossessed owners being distributed among the other families. "We know not," it is said, "that the history of the British people ever presented such pictures of severe unmitigated want and misery as are exemplified at this moment in the case of the poor Highlanders." A committee was formed in Glasgow which raised a sum of nearly £30,000, and aid came also from other quarters, including the Government.

There is no satisfaction in dwelling on these things, but in the history of the time they cannot be overlooked. It must be remembered that this state of matters existed before the coming of the great potato famine, although there are indications that potatoes were already becoming a precarious crop. The circumstances of Skye are described in a paper published in 1838 by the late Rev. Alexander Macgregor (long minister of the West Church, Inverness), who was then a licentiate of the Church living in the manse of Kilmuir. He sets down the destitution as due to the failure of kelp and herring, the fall in the price of black cattle, and the cessation of road-making. Mr Macgregor blames the custom of early and improvident marriages, the low state of husbandry, and the constant sub-division of the soil, in consequence of which the population on many farms had doubled within sixteen years. He also mentioned that when emigration carried away the able-bodied, they left behind aged relatives who had lost their means of support. From all the crowded districts movement to the colonies went forward. In 1838 it is stated that an extensive voluntary emigration had occurred in Lochaber during the previous two years, and that 1200 persons (one thinks there must be some mistake in the figures) were now prepared to emigrate to Australia under the Colonial Act, which provided for free or assisted passages. In the same year a ship with 280 emigrants from the counties of Ross and Inverness sailed

from Cromarty, and had a sad experience, as the vessel was leaky and the food insufficient. Evictions which occurred at the time in the island of Harris excited much comment. In the latter part of 1841 there were riots at Durness, in Sutherland, caused by evictions which the local tacksmen attempted to carry out. Other cases belong to a subsequent time.

To resume the more general record. In 1840 Sir Robert Inglis called attention in the House of Commons to the sad circumstances of the Highland people, asserting that many of them had taken a pledge to confine themselves to one meal a day. The editor of the "Courier" said he had never heard of such a pledge, and at the moment there was no unusual crisis, but thousands lived constantly on the verge of destitution, "dependent solely on the potato crop." The Inverness Town Council declared that an organised system of emigration was imperiously called for. In August 1840 it is recorded that three vessels, represented by one firm of agents, had in course of the season carried away 463 persons from the North Coast, and that 248 were from Caithness. Over 500 persons went away from Uig and Tobermory in 1840. The parish minister of Croick, in Ross-shire, accompanied a band of emigrants from that district and from Assynt to Nova Scotia. In the spring of 1841 a ship with 190 emigrants, most of them from the parish of Reay, sailed from Scrabster. In the same year Mr Henry Baillie, member for Inverness-shire, obtained a Committee of Inquiry from the House of Commons. He also pleaded for a grant of money, but this was refused. Mr Baillie said that "owing to the depression of the kelp trade, by the reduction of the duties on salt, sulphur, and barilla, many of the Highland estates were ruined, and the tenants and occupants deprived of the means of living." In course of the inquiry, one of the ministers of Inverness attributed the destitution to the injudicious means taken to prevent emigration in the beginning of the century. The Committee, when it reported, found that an excess

of population existed on the western coasts of the counties of Argyll, Inverness, and Ross, and in the islands; "and this excess of population, who are for the most part, for a period of every year, in a state of destitution, was variously calculated at from 45,000 to 80,000 souls." The Committee was further informed "that the famine and destitution in the years 1836 and 1837 was so extensive that many thousands would have died of starvation had it not been for the assistance which they received from the Government and the public; that the sum of £70,000 was collected and distributed at that period in the shape of food and clothing, and all the witnesses were of opinion that this district of the country was liable to similar visitations in succeeding years." Such was the condition of the people in the western districts and in a few spots on the mainland. It would be a mistake to suppose that it was anything like universal. In many fertile glens a moderate degree of comfort prevailed. The remedy proposed by the Committee was emigration, assisted and regulated by the Government.

Sheep farming, which had taken a substantial hold in the Highlands before the end of the eighteenth century, developed steadily in subsequent times. A Parliamentary paper published in the History of the Highland and Agricultural Society, gives a tabulated statement of the acreage and live stock in the counties of Scotland for the year 1811. The document is taken from a careful digest made from authentic sources by Mr J. Marshall, and printed on the recommendation of a Committee of the House of Commons in 1833. From this paper we take the following figures of the sheep stock in the Northern Highland Counties in 1811:—

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| Inverness-shire, Mainland, and Islands | ... | ... | ... | ... | 154,000 |
| Ross and Cromarty | ... | ... | ... | ... | 50,946 |
| Sutherland | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37,130 |
| Caithness | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12,748 |
| | | | | | <hr/> 254,824 |

In this computation the Island of Lewis is reckoned with the other Hebridean Islands, so that a little more than its fair proportion is assigned to the county of Inverness. On the mainland of the county the numbers are given as 50,000, about a third of the total for the shire and Lewis. Authentic figures are not to be obtained for many years afterwards. The establishment of the Inverness Wool Market in 1817 proves the rapid extension of the industry. We find it stated in our columns in 1827 that according to the best information "about 120,000 stones of wool and 150,000 sheep were disposed of on terms generally agreeable to all parties." This, however, seems to have been an unusually prosperous year. In the first edition of the Andersons' Guide to the Highlands, published in 1834, the average amount of transactions at the market is computed at 100,000 sheep and as many stones of wool. The same work states that in a report of a committee appointed at the market of 1832, the number of sheep annually exported from Inverness-shire was estimated at 100,000, and that all the other northern counties yielded nearly the same amount, making a total export of about 200,000. In the opinion of the authors, "the modern system of sheep-farming on a great scale seems to have been too generally adopted, with an inconsiderable degree of expedition, in some districts of the Highlands." Cheviot stock had by this time become the favourite breed in suitable localities. For the sake of comparison we give the numbers in the various counties, as reported by Mr Hall Maxwell, secretary to the Highland Society, in 1854. Under pressure from the Society, the Board of Trade requested its directors to collect statistics, and the following are the returns of sheep in the Northern Counties:—

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
| Inverness-shire in 1854 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 542,028 |
| Ross and Cromarty, do. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 251,619 |
| Sutherland, do. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 162,103 |
| Caithness, do. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 75,469 |
| | | | | | <hr/> 1,031,219 |
| In 1855, the return for Sutherland is | ... | ... | ... | ... | 200,553 |

The vast increase which had taken place in forty-three years is the most conclusive proof of the economic change which had occurred in the Highlands within the period. For another quarter of a century the sheep industry continued, with some fluctuations, to expand, but since then vital changes have greatly transformed the Highland area. The returns recently issued by the Board of Trade give the following figures for 1906:—

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| Inverness-shire | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 532,880 |
| Ross and Cromarty | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 262,002 |
| Sutherland | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 195,453 |
| Caithness | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 124,197 |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,114,532 |

It will be observed that the total now is not much greater than it was in 1854, and if allowance were made for the imperfect character of the early returns, the difference would probably be imperceptible. The fact that arable farmers nowadays keep many more sheep than in former times, likewise disguises in the statistics the actual reduction which has recently taken place in the sheep-farming area.

A change was coming over the agriculture of the district similar to that which had occurred in pastoral farming, though slower in operation. The old primitive system of tillage was disappearing. The work of reclamation had begun, which continued until the middle of the seventies, when the drop in prices made it unprofitable. Improved qualities of seed were introduced, and draining and fencing went forward. A note in our columns in 1839 draws attention to the great improvement which had occurred within the previous twelve years, enabling many parishes which had formerly imported produce to contribute a share of exports. "Thorough drainage and bone-dust," it is stated, "have revolutionised the surface of the earth; and if the whole kingdom were brought under the improved system of tillage, the corn produce of Britain would far exceed the wants of its population."

Though this hope was destined to disappointment, the paragraph shows the spirit of activity that prevailed. The Inverness Farmer Society was resuscitated, and societies in other places stimulated general interest. Ploughing matches were held for the encouragement of farm servants. They were not exactly a new development, but they seem to have been revived and made more popular.

The Highland and Agricultural Society did yeoman service in imparting an impulse to every form of agriculture. At the first show of this Society held at Inverness in 1831, shorthorn cattle were represented by only two cows, and the Aberdeenshire polled by two bulls, four heifers, and one cow. There was, however, a good display of Highland stock, and a fair representation of Galloways, though the latter were in the hands of three exhibitors. The show of sheep was extremely small, but this must have been due to difficulties of transit rather than to any other cause. Horses made a more satisfactory appearance. At the second show, held in 1839, there was a great advance. Highland cattle were again to the front, but other classes had multiplied. In shorthorns there were twelve aged bulls (three from the south of Scotland), three yearling bulls, and four bull calves; also nine cows and four heifers. In polled cattle, of all classes, there were eight bulls, nine cows, and five pairs of heifers. There were also a few Ayrshires, with a considerable display of extra stock. Horses are described as a meagre show. In sheep the blackfaced were few, but the display of Cheviots seems to have impressed some of the visitors. The official history of the Society, from which we have drawn these particulars, says merely that they "mustered fairly." This evidently refers to numbers. The contemporary report in our columns, speaking doubtless of quality, and using language of pardonable exaggeration, says that "the show of Cheviots was by far the best that had ever been exhibited under the auspices of the Society." In corroboration of the remark, we are told that "a gentleman from Northumberland states that at the exhibi-

tions in the North of England, no such Cheviot wethers had ever been exhibited." Wherever the exact truth on this point may lie, it is clear that Cheviot sheep were now in the ascendant in the district. A few Leicesters and Southdowns were also forward. The gate money at Inverness in 1831 was £71 13s 6d, and in 1839, £211 1s 6d. The second show was a great affair in the North. It was celebrated by a dinner, at which about 780 persons attended, accommodation being provided in a pavilion specially erected. Our report mentions that the entries at the show numbered 879, "within about twenty of the great Glasgow Exhibition."

Farm buildings began to share in the general improvement. In 1827 a newspaper letter avers that three-fourths, or even four-fifths, of the Highland peasantry lived in black huts of a well-known type, still existing in the Hebrides. Much better provision was made for the pastoral and larger class of agricultural farmers, but even their houses would seldom bear comparison with those of the present day. The Messrs Anderson are again an authority that may be quoted. "The residences of the better classes in the Highlands," they say, "are now (1834) provided with the usual comforts and conveniences of life. Farm-houses of moderate pretensions are not in general remarkable for neatness or comfort; but the better class of such dwellings are substantial and well-furnished, while the landed gentry in many cases have gone to an expense in the style of their houses quite unsuited to the value of their estates. Stone is the universal material used in the construction of dwelling-houses. These are frequently harled or white-washed on the outside with slaked lime." It is doubtful if many farm-houses at that time were slated, and in any case slated farm-steadings, even in the lowlands of the district, were not common until a later date. The Messrs Anderson give "on a rough conjecture" the value of the exports from the Highlands and Islands. They estimate the

exports of sheep and wool at £250,000 a year; black cattle also at £250,000; herrings, £200,000; grain, £100,000; salmon, kelp, wood, pork, &c., £100,000; whisky, £200,000; making a total of £1,100,000 a year. About half of the herring export is assigned to Caithness.

The history of sport in the Highlands can only be written by an expert, but side-lights are thrown upon it from many sources, including our newspaper columns. The fascinations of sport in all its forms, on moors, in deer forests, in lochs and rivers, existed long before they became a source of solid income to Highland proprietors. Payments may have been made by visitors on a limited scale before there was any general system of letting, but the liberty to shoot was evidently in many cases an opportunity for hospitality. We can go back to Colonel Thornton's tour in Scotland in 1786, when he occupied Raitts, in Badenoch, and enjoyed shooting and fishing throughout the whole district. This was not his first visit, for he mentions having been in the Highlands ten or twelve years before, and notes the "luxury and effeminacy" that had crept in during the interval. As time went on visitors became more numerous, and practised sport in a free and easy fashion. The following advertisement which appears in the "Invernes Journal" of October 2nd, 1907, tells its own story:—

"PRESERVATION OF GAME.—Sir George Mackenzie of Coul, Bart.; Sir Roderick Mackenzie of Scatwell, Bart.; Henry Davidson, Esq. of Tulloch; William Mackenzie, Esq. of Strathgarve; and Alex. Mackenzie, Esq. of Ord, having found the game on their Estates very scarce, owing partly to the severity of last spring, but chiefly to unauthorised persons destroying it, and travellers shooting on their way to and from Lochbroom, have resolved to prevent, by every means in their power, all unqualified and unauthorised persons from injuring it. They therefore give warning to all persons who may have occasion to travel on the Ullapool Road, and to all others, not to shoot on their grounds; and request of their friends not to ask leave to sport on their property during the

remainder of this, or during the next season, as then a jubilee is to be given to the Game."

Advertisements asking friends to avoid for a season making requests for sport appear occasionally at later dates. As a rule, however, in the opening decades of the nineteenth century many gay parties found entertainment during the autumn months. In 1811 Sir Humphry Davy was in the North, and again in 1821 he was shooting and fishing in Ross-shire, "taking the campaign against the grouse" on the moors of Sir George Mackenzie of Coul. The Duchess of Gordon, who died in 1812, may have looked on Kinrara (if we may judge from letters recently published) as in some measure an exile, but her presence there added to the liveliness of the district. Her daughter, the Duchess of Bedford, kept up the succession, and her son, best known as the Marquis of Huntly, delighted in having friends around him on his Badenoch property. In 1816 there are newspaper records of heavy bags on the Badenoch moors, all the heavier, it was supposed, because unfavourable weather had driven the grouse to the lower grounds. In the early thirties the traffic in August is reported as heavy—"there never was a time when the Highlands had so many visitors." Good roads, coaches, and steamers were now carrying their autumn freights to the Highlands. The growth of shooting rents is noted by the Messrs Anderson in their Guide in 1834. "It has now," they say, "become a common practice for Highland proprietors to let the right of shooting on their grounds. Moors may be had at all prices from £50 to £500 for the season, with accommodations varying according to the circumstances." We fancy the latter figure was very exceptional. The late Earl of Malmesbury in his Memoirs gives us some particulars. Writing of the year 1833, he says:—

"This was the first year that the Highlands became the rage and that deer forests were made and rented, but for prices not exceeding £300 a year. Sir Harry

Goodrick, who was a leader among the young hunting men, hired Mar Forest, and Lord Kinnaird, Fealar in Athol. We paid the latter a visit in August, at Rossie Priory, and I went with him, Mr Errington and Count Matuschewitz, the Russian Ambassador, to a bothy at Fealar. . . . I went later to the Isle of Skye and to Harris. I was harboured at the latter by Mr Stewart, a gentleman farmer and breeder of cattle, and had the run of the island, which belonged then to Macleod, and the grouse, deer forest, and fishing, all of which are first-rate, were offered to me for £25 a year. It has been purchased since by Lord Dunmore, and the sporting right let for £2000 a year. At that time (1833) a stranger could fish and shoot over almost any part of the Highlands, without interruption, the letting value of the *ferae naturae* being unknown to their possessors."

The Andersons, however, afford contemporary evidence that the change, at least as regards grouse shooting, had begun earlier than Lord Malmesbury remembered. His own first experience as a lessee, it will be observed, was in a district which was then considered remote. Sir Alexander Muir Mackenzie thinks that the renting of moors commenced about 1809 (Chambers's Journal, February 1906). If this was so the returns for years must have been too small to be reckoned important. It was in the end of the twenties and the beginning of the thirties that the business began to assume considerable proportions. The late Mr Joseph Mitchell, C.E., who was born in 1803 and died in 1883, corroborates this in his Reminiscences. He says that in early days "it was reckoned mean to take money for the privilege of shooting and fishing, and the letting which now brings in such vast revenues did not become general till 1826 or 1830." Probably Sir Alexander Muir Mackenzie refers to the Southern Highlands, where letting seems to have begun earlier than in the North.

The late Evander Maciver says that when he entered in 1834 on the factorship of the Tulloch estates in Ross-shire, there was only one shooting let, Achnaclerach, near Garve, at a rent of £100 a year. The Lochbroom shootings, he

says, had never been let, and all the shootings round Tulloch were kept in the proprietor's own hands. We find it noted in our columns in 1835, that is the very next year, that Lord Southampton had taken the shootings and fishings of Lochbroom, and in the same year there is a list of forty sportsmen in shooting quarters. In that year also the shootings and fishings of Strathconon are advertised, with the information that the place had been let for three years previously, and that its tenants certified that it afforded excellent sport. "One of them wrote that an ordinary shot might with great ease bag 20 brace of grouse a day, and that he and one companion killed 13 brace of ptarmigan in about half-an-hour." The right of shooting over extensive districts in Sutherland—to include red-deer "with certain limitations"—was advertised in 1836; the shootings of Achnasheen in 1837. In 1840 a tract in Lochaber, extending to about 20,000 imperial acres, was advertised as suitable for conversion into a deer forest, the inducement being held out that "by adding three or four thousand acres more, these farms might be brought almost into contact with an old-established regular forest, which has been for a century or two strictly reserved from sheep and cattle, and is at present well stocked with deer." The deer forest of Glenloyne, on the Glengarry estates, was in existence at the same time, having been formed by the last notable chief, who was an ardent sportsman.

An article which appears in our columns in 1841 gives an estimate of the value that was then attached to Highland shootings. It is stated that ground capable of yielding 500 brace of grouse would let for £125, and if the house accommodation was good and the moor of high reputation, "we have known 10s a brace offered for a month's shooting"—a rate which would work out at a rent of £250. One red deer, we are told, was equal to a hundred brace of grouse, which would mean a rental of from £25 to £50 per head of deer. About the end of our

period books on sport began to be published, the most famous being those of Mr William Scrope and Mr John Colquhoun; later came the works of Charles St John. Mr Colquhoun died in 1885, and writing some years earlier, he says—"Forty years ago there were no Scotch sporting books, and the few English ones were merely works of instruction and dry detail. Now, however, the Scotch books on mountain, forest, and river sport occupy no mean place in our national literature. How much these books stimulated the demand for Scotch shootings it would be difficult to say; at all events, wild shooting rose prodigiously in the market after their publication. Forty years ago capital small ranges were to be had from £150 to £180. The rapidity with which these rose to thrice that amount was most disheartening to keen grouse-shooters of moderate incomes. The competition for the first-class beats was even greater, and I have been told by agents that the claimants bid each other up to such a figure that they were sometimes ashamed to take the highest offer." Sir Alexander Muir Mackenzie says that the Drumouchter shootings let for £80 or £90 in early days, while in 1906 they had risen to £800.

Coaching was in its heyday during our period and for some time thereafter. A daily mail began to run between Inverness and Aberdeen in 1811, and there was no change in the official route for the next twenty-five years. But the central road to Perth had advantages which commended it to private enterprise. There was an attempt to run a coach upon it in 1806, which was continued by an enterprising solicitor, Mr Peter Anderson, after it had been abandoned by his associates. In 1809 we had a regular service established, three times a week in summer and twice a week in winter, which was destined to endure. In 1826 there was an effort to make the service daily, but judging from subsequent notices, it was premature. Until 1836 the Caledonian Coach, as it was called, continued to travel according to the original arrangement, being

latterly crowded in the autumn months with tourists, sportsmen, and their baggage. At length, in the summer of 1836, the Government acceded to petitions to run a daily mail between Inverness and Perth, and the Caledonian was withdrawn to make room for the postal conveyance, which was "spick and span new, with new guards in new liveries, and horses that find no difficulty, even at the ugly Pass of Slockmuick, in clearing nine miles an hour." At the same time there were no fewer than four daily coaches running between Inverness and Aberdeen, and even at an earlier date it is stated that seven different stage coaches passed daily to and from Inverness. One can understand how much liveliness this created in the streets of the town. Mr Joseph Mitchell enables us to realise the condition of travelling in those days. He says:—

"In my early days coaching was very slow and imperfect. The coachman's drive was limited to one stage of ten or twelve miles; thereafter he tended his horses and prepared them for the return journey. His reward was sixpence from each passenger. The roads throughout the country became very much improved between 1830 and 1840, and coaches improved also and became numerous. A few years after 1840 coaching in Scotland was brought to its greatest perfection. A great impetus was given to it by an association of some county gentlemen, chiefly Mr Ramsay of Barnton, Mr Barclay of Ury, Lord Glenlyon, and others. They started a coach between Edinburgh and Aberdeen. Their coaches were luxurious and handsome, the horses beautifully matched, and of the first character, harness in good taste and of the best quality. The drivers and guards, in their uniform of red coats and yellow collars, were steady and respectable men, great favourites on the road, obliging, full of conversation and local knowledge, and several of these played with no mean talent on the bugle and cornet. Time was kept to a minute, and so complete and perfect was the whole establishment that a highly paid veterinary surgeon was employed to tend the horses and see that they were properly looked to."

During the same time steamers plied on the Cale-

donian Canal and in the western seas, and ventures were made in the Moray Firth, but at first with only partial success. As travelling increased, the accommodation for travellers improved. There is a curious passage in the Guide-Book so often quoted, commending the better class of inns on frequented routes, and saying that even in other houses the tourist will often be agreeably surprised.—

“Considering the recent establishment of these inns, and the want of familiarity on the part of the Highland peasantry with the more refined habits and comforts of the South, the business of innkeeping has fully kept pace with the other improvements of the country. If much refinement and elegance is not to be seen, there is at least abundance of substantial commodities; no lack of black-faced mutton and poultry, with the addition of salmon, and various other excellent fish, on the sea-coasts; and indeed scarcely a burn but affords trout. The traveller may everywhere calculate on the luxuries of tea and sugar, and generally loaf-bred or biscuits; eggs and milk, with whisky, &c., always in abundance. . . . We may add that the horse will be as well off as the rider, good stabling being seldom wanting. Neither need the Saxon be apprehensive of finding himself at a loss to make his wants known, as it very rarely happens that individuals are not met with who understand the English language.”

The condition of the Caledonian Canal engaged attention in 1839. Mr Walker, C.E., reported that extensive operations were necessary to give the undertaking a fair chance of accomplishing its purpose, and a scheme was set agoing for leasing it to a company for a period of years. A bill with this object actually passed, but the Commissioners were unable to effect a transfer on the terms proposed, and they had ultimately to undertake the work at the public expense.

The Northern Institution for the Promotion of Science and Literature was founded in 1825, and had a life of ten years. It was a gallant attempt to establish a society for the purposes of local research, but came rather before its time. Its general secretary and chief promoter was

Mr George Anderson, then a young solicitor, a member of a family who did much to excite interest in scientific pursuits, chiefly archæological and geological. His elder brother, Mr John Anderson, W.S., was secretary to the Society of Antiquaries, and his younger brother, Mr Peter Anderson, was afterwards associated with George as a legal practitioner, and as joint author of the Guide to the Highlands, a work to which frequent reference has already been made. Their father, Mr Peter Anderson, an active and prosperous Inverness solicitor, and a leader in public improvements, died in 1823. At the first meeting of the Northern Institution one of the vice-presidents, Sir George Mackenzie of Coul, presided, and offered a gold medal for the best essay on the State of Society in the Highlands in 1745, and on the progress which had been made during the subsequent period. The prize was awarded to Mr John Anderson, and presented to him at a meeting held in October 1826. His essay, along with an address delivered on the occasion by Sir George Mackenzie, was published in 1827 by Mr William Tait, Edinburgh. There is much that is interesting both in the address and the essay. Both speak of the changes that had taken place in the management of Highland estates. Sir George suggests that serious consequences would have followed if the people had been left undisturbed. "To those," he says, "possessed of the talent of observation, who are acquainted with the habits of the Highlanders, it is obvious that misery and wretchedness would have resulted to the population and beggary to the proprietors, while the country would have continued a wilderness." Mr John Anderson takes a more sympathetic view. He acknowledges the importance of the introduction of sheep, but thinks that the work was carried out with inconsiderate rapidity and impatience. "It was certainly," he says, "the imperative duty of the chief, in sheathing his sword, to have provided for the martial soldiers who had done his behests in the stirring times of clan warfare; and to have afforded them an asylum,

either on the sea-coast, to which his new policy did not reach, or in other valleys as yet undevoted to the universal doom." Mr Anderson gives instances of the advance in the value of landed property, rentals or purchase prices having increased from six to eight times within a period of forty years. These figures show the temptations to which proprietors were subjected.

The Northern Institution began with great prospects of success. In its first year the society numbered 100 ordinary members and 49 corresponding members. The list included distinguished names, among them that of Sir Walter Scott, who was always ready to assist inquiry into the history of the past. The institution in less than two years received 156 donations for its museum, many of them comprising collections of great interest. Financial support, however, proved intermittent, and in the end insufficient, and in 1834 the museum was handed over to the directors of the Academy, who agreed to pay the debts of the society, amounting to about £80. "The coins alone," we are told, "if sold as bullion, are worth this sum." After various vicissitudes the relics of the museum now lie in the upper rooms of the Free Library buildings, along with other gifts, mostly provided by the Inverness Field Club, which started in 1876 in more fortunate circumstances than its predecessor, and still enjoys a healthy and vigorous life. The name of the Northern Institution is chiefly known to the public from the passage in Hugh Miller's "Schools and Schoolmasters," telling how he called on Mr George Anderson with a poetical address to the members, written in imitation of the illuminated manuscripts of mediæval times. At a meeting held years afterwards—indeed, the year after the museum was handed over to the Academy—Mr Anderson had the pleasure of showing fossil fishes from the Old Red Sandstone which Miller had sent from Cromarty. The Anderson brothers wrote on many subjects (see "An Inverness Lawyer and his Sons," by Isabel Harriet Anderson, Aberdeen 1900). John Anderson, W.S., died in 1839, from the effects of an

accident, in the West Indian Island of St Vincent, where he had been appointed Justice. Mr Peter Anderson, the youngest, died in 1868, while Mr George Anderson survived until 1878.

The subjects of interest in the period are so numerous that this introduction might be indefinitely prolonged. For details, however, readers must be referred to the body of the work. The late Dr Carruthers became editor of the "Courier" in 1828, and for fifty years superintended the journal as editor and proprietor. His early relations with Hugh Miller are illustrated under their proper dates. Sales of property and the sums paid for them indicate some of the changes that were in progress. The establishment of the Caledonian Bank in 1838 contributed to the prosperity of the district. The population of the royal burgh of Inverness in 1841 is given as 9100, and of the landward part as 6318, making a total of 15,418. In the previous returns the town and parish were not discriminated, and if the expression "royal burgh" is to be taken as exact, a portion of the town must have been included in the landward part in 1841. The total of both town and parish in 1801 was 8732, and at the last census (1901) it had risen to 27,046. The comparison is best taken as embracing both town and parish, as the boundaries otherwise are rather uncertain. The population that could properly be called urban numbered 23,066 in 1901.

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THE NORTH IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

[SECOND SERIES]

No. I.



THE Second Series of Notes on the Nineteenth Century begins with the year 1825. It will be observed that the Northern Institution, a society of the same nature as the Inverness Field Club, was started this year through the energy of the late Mr George Anderson, solicitor. The institution existed for a good many years, and formed a Museum, of which some fragments still remain in the Free Library Buildings, augmented by subsequent donations. The most interesting articles in the old Museum, however, disappeared before it was resuscitated. The Northern Institution did good work in its day. Unfortunately it did not issue Transactions, and no permanent record remains, except a prize essay written by Mr John Anderson on the State of Society in the Highlands in the period succeeding 1745.

In the summer of 1825 Marshal Macdonald, Duke of Tarentum, visited the battle-field of Culloden and the home of his parental ancestors in the Hebrides. He was the son of Niel Macdonald or Mackichan, a preceptor in the Clanranald family, who accompanied Prince Charles and Flora Macdonald in their hazardous journey through Skye. He had been educated at the Scots College in Paris, and it is recorded, "proved a great comfort to the Prince in his wanderings, by talking to him in the French language about matters of importance in their difficulties." Mackichan himself escaped to France, where he was appointed an officer in Lord Ogilvie's regiment of the Scots Brigade in the French service.

His son, the famous Marshal, was born in 1765, and entered the army at an early age. Though one of Napoleon's Marshals and faithful in his service, Macdonald was a man of the old school, and refused to rejoin the Emperor when he returned from Elba. He was honoured by the restored sovereigns, and was made Chancellor of the Legion of Honour. He died in 1840. Contemporary notes of his visit to the Highlands are given below. Born at Sedan in November 1765, he was at the time of his visit in his sixtieth year.

The state of Scottish prisons was at this time deplorable. The details which are given in an official report under date November 16th, seem almost incredible at the present day.

From the "Inverness Courier."

1825.

January 6.—The Rev. James Morrison was appointed assistant and successor to the Rev. Roderick Morison in the parish of Kintail and Presbytery of Lochcarron.

Ibid.—An abstract is given of the Act for the final repeal of the Salt Tax, passed in the previous June, and brought into operation on 5th January. It is stated that exactly two years before the duty on English salt was reduced from 30s to 4s per cwt., while the duty in Scotland was generally relinquished altogether. "Salt is now selling in town at fivepence per peck. In a few days it ought to be still less."

January 20.—While some workmen were digging a new road on the estate of Drumduan, near Forres, they found a skeleton on the Gallow Hill, about 200 yards east of Nelson's Monument. "The circumstances connected with this discovery are curious and indisputably true. About eighty years ago a soldier was sentenced to be shot for desertion, and to heighten the impression he was led out from the jail of Forres to the Gallow Hill, dressed in his grave clothes, on a St Lawrence Market day. The runner, who had stopped at Burn-end (formerly a public-house about two miles east from Forres), arrived about an hour after the sentence had been executed with, among other official despatches, a reprieve for the poor fellow. The spot where the skeleton was found was generally known by the name of the 'Sodger's grave'; and there are two or three of the inhabitants who remember the day on which he was shot. It is not long since the man who made the coffin died."

Several other skeletons were found in the immediate neighbourhood.

January 27.—“On a late visit at Dunvegan Castle, the seat of Macleod of Macleod, the Duke of Buckingham being informed that a daughter of Flora Macdonald was present, desired to be introduced to her; he walked across the room, and kissed, in a very respectful manner, this venerable old lady, now nearly 70 years of age. During an entertainment in the Castle, his Grace treated her with marked attention—invited her to a fete on board his yacht and attended her on shore. At parting, he took from his pocket a beautiful snuff-box, and throwing out the contents, placed within it a white rose (the well-known emblem of Prince Charles), and presented the box to the daughter of Flora.”

February 3.—It is announced that the shares of the Inverness Water and Gas Company, amounting to £10,000, had all been taken up and the lists closed. The whole sum, with the exception of about £500, was subscribed by persons immediately connected with the town and neighbourhood.

February 17.—At a Court at Tain no fewer than 150 persons were prosecuted for offences against the Excise laws. Heavy fines were imposed, in one case as much as £100 for illicit distillation. The Justices expressed their determination to put down smuggling. Heavy fines were also imposed at a Court in Dornoch. It was stated that in the County of Cromarty smuggling had been almost entirely abolished.

March 10.—A meeting of gentlemen desirous to form an institution for the promotion of science and literature, and for the establishment of a museum, was held on the 4th inst., Provost Robertson in the chair. About twenty gentlemen attended. Mr George Anderson explained the views of the projectors, and the meeting formed itself into an Association, to be called “The Northern Institution for the Promotion of Science and Literature.” Mr George Anderson was appointed interim secretary, and he received a vote of thanks for bringing forward the scheme.

March 17.—“Within the last twelvemonth a number of valuable estates in the County of Ross have changed proprietors. The wide districts of Strathconon, Ardross, Muirtown, and Milncraig now yield their annual returns to some gentlemen of the Law in Edinburgh—the owners. Last week the estate of Redcastle and the Ferry of Kessock, in the same county, was purchased by Sir William Fettes for the large sum of £135,000. In 1785 the property was

bought for £26,000. The whole of the Island of Lewis (with the exception of Stornoway) was also last week brought to judicial sale before Lord Medwyn, and after being set up at £136,000, was purchased by Mr Mackenzie of Seaforth for £160,000. The Joint Stock Property Company of Edinburgh were said to be the opposing bidders. This state of affairs is not unlikely to create a change in the political state of the County of Ross."

Ibid.—A meeting of the Celtic Society was held in Edinburgh, Mr Macdonald of Staffa presiding. One of the objects of the Society was to distribute a hundred guineas in prizes to the leading scholars at 25 of the most extensive Highland schools. Among the qualifications entitling candidates to compete, it was resolved that "after the present year" they should "habitually wear the Highland dress." A general rule was laid down that wherever two candidates seemed to be possessed of equal merit, as to the special subject of competition, the prize should be given to the better proficient in the Gaelic language.

Ibid.—Died, at the Manse of Kingussie, on the 4th inst., after a severe and lingering illness, which he bore with the greatest patience and resignation, the Rev. John Robertson, minister of that parish, in the 68th year of his age and the 38th of his ministry. "In Mr Robertson the Church of Scotland has been deprived of a distinguished ornament, and his family and parish have sustained an incalculable loss. There was in his character a happy union of great intellect, fervent and rational piety, and zeal tempered by judgment and controlled by discriminating prudence. As a preacher his talents were of no common order."

Ibid.—Died, at Langwell, in the parish of Lochbroom, on the 13th ult., Thomas Mackenzie, Esq., aged 82. "He was the last in that part of the country of the well-educated, well-bred, and intelligent class of farmers called 'the old school.' He was the sixth in succession of the same family on the same farm. His body was conveyed over a distance of eleven miles to the place of interment, on the shoulders of above five hundred Highlanders, who spontaneously assembled to render to his memory that last melancholy tribute; and he was laid in the grave amidst a multitude of weeping relatives and friends, by six sons, all grown up and able men."

March 24.—The first general meeting of the Northern Institution was held on the 23rd inst., Sir George Mackenzie, Bart. of Coul, in the chair. Mr George Anderson presented to the

meeting a great variety of donations forwarded by several contributors. These included a complete series of the coal deposits of Brora. Mr Naughton presented thirty-two varieties of Ancient Scottish and English coins, and a two-edged Andrea Ferrara, found some years ago in the neighbourhood of the town. Specimens of vitrified matter gathered from the vitrified forts in the counties of Inverness and Ross were given by Mr Anderson. The office-bearers were elected as follows:—President, the Duke of Gordon; non-resident vice-presidents — Sir George Mackenzie of Coul, Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, Professor William Fraser-Tytler; resident vice-presidents—Provost Robertson, Captain Fraser of Balnain, and Mr Grant of Bught; treasurer, Mr Reach, solicitor; general secretary, Mr George Anderson; Latin secretary, Mr Scott, Royal Academy; Gaelic secretary, Rev. Duncan Mackenzie; inspector of ancient manuscripts, Mr Alex. Mackenzie of Woodside; curator of the Museum, Mr Naughton, jeweller; members of Council—Dr Nicol, Mr Suter, junior; Rev. Mr Clark, Rev. Mr Fyvie, Rev. Mr Fraser, of Kirkhill; and Mr Macbean, solicitor. There were also corresponding members, and a number of distinguished non-resident honorary members. Sir George Mackenzie offered a gold medal for the “best account of the State of Society and of Knowledge in the Highlands of Scotland, particularly in the Northern Counties, at the period of the Rebellion of 1745, and of their progress up to the establishment of this Institution.” The meeting resolved to circulate queries throughout the Northern Counties for the purpose of collecting accurate and detailed information regarding the remains of Celtic and Danish antiquities, and any ancient MSS., traditions, &c., deserving preservation; also to frame an address to be circulated at home and abroad for the purpose of soliciting contributions for the Museum.

Ibid.—The Morayshire Farmer Society announces that the Highland Society has offered a prize of ten sovereigns for the best field of turnips in the County of Moray, not under ten Scots acres in extent, to be eaten off the land by sheep in winter and spring. This offer was made “with the view of introducing that great and long-wished desideratum in Morayshire farming—eating turnip off the land by sheep—and to excite the attention of the storemasters (?flockmasters) in Inverness, Ross, and Sutherlandshires, to a warm and dry situation, where they could depend on finding abundance of winter food to fatten their stock for the early markets, or to increase the fleece and carcase.”

March 31.—“In framing the conditions of the leases on an extensive estate in this county, among many beneficial regulations to be observed by the tenant, the proprietor has introduced one clause to the following effect:—‘That any tenant convicted of illegal distillation or of any offence therewith connected, either by himself or by any person or persons on his farm, shall thereby forfeit his lease, and subject himself to immediate removal from his farm.’ Another clause set forth that ‘each tenant possessing a house and offices of the value of £100 and upwards, shall be bound to have the same regularly insured against fire, in some established insurance office, at his own expense.’”

April 14.—On the 9th inst., while workmen were engaged trenching ground about half-a-mile distant from the Druid Temple at Leys, they came upon a stone coffin about three feet long, two feet broad, and two feet deep. The interior of the coffin was filled with a mixture apparently composed of sand and burnt bones or ashes, rolled quite smooth on the top; and imbedded in it were two small urns.

April 21.—The Public Records of Scotland were lately printed by his Majesty's command under the direction of the Deputy-Clerk Register. A copy, consisting of fourteen large folio volumes, was presented to the Northern Institution.

Ibid.—The same number contains an extract from the Report of the Parliamentary Commissioners, containing a high tribute to the services of the late Mr Mitchell, their principal Road Inspector, who had died the previous year, at the age of forty-five. The minute states that for eighteen years Mr Mitchell had superintended the formation of all the Parliamentary Roads and Bridges; which with military roads had latterly been upheld under his most vigilant inspection to the extent of 1183 miles. “Mr Mitchell's personal exertions in an office of the most laborious description always surpassed what was expected of him, and the desire of the Commissioners to limit the extent of his journeys may be traced in their restriction of his travelling allowances to 7000 miles per annum; but his zeal outran all personal considerations, and the whole of his journeys, as ascertained by the daily account of his occupations, were not charged against the Commissioners; in fact, he travelled little less than 10,000 miles annually, without regard to the weather, the most violent storms usually calling him out to administer prompt remedy to the casualties then most likely to occur.” The

Minute continues—"When intelligence of Mr Mitchell's dangerous illness reached London, great uneasiness was felt at the difficulty of supplying a temporary substitute, the roads being likely to suffer from any relaxation of attention to them. In this difficulty Mr Telford, not without inconvenience to himself, was prevailed on to despatch to Inverness one of his assistants, Mr Joseph Mitchell, who was familiar with the progress of Highland road-making from his earliest youth, and had also been trained to masonry before he had an opportunity to acquire skill in surveying and other accomplishments under Mr Telford. Mr Joseph Mitchell now continues to fill his late father's office to the entire satisfaction of his employers, and of all those with whom he has occasion to transact business."

Ibid.—A Select Committee on the Salmon Fisheries of Scotland prepared a Report recommending the extension of close time and other important changes. The Committee recorded their opinion that the Salmon Fisheries of the United Kingdom had for many years rapidly decreased, and there was reason to apprehend that this decrease would proceed still more rapidly unless effectual measures were taken for their preservation.

April 28.—"The Rev. Mackintosh Mackay, who has for some time past been engaged upon the publication of the Gaelic Dictionary, has been presented to the parish of Laggan, which becomes vacant through the translation of Rev. Mr Shepherd."

May 4.—Report of meeting of Northern Institution. Among articles presented were a collection of Prince Charles Edward's Proclamations and Papers; beautiful etchings of the inscriptions on stones in the North of Scotland, by Mr D. C. Petty, Kent; and by Dr Nicol a leaden heart formed in the manner described in the Pirate for a charm. "In this specimen the resemblance to a human heart and the great blood vessels proceeding from it are very striking."

May 12.—An important alteration is announced in the running of the mail coach between Edinburgh and London. "The whole distance will be performed within forty-six hours, including stoppages." This was connected with an acceleration of the mails to and from the North.

May 19.—"The Catholic Relief Bill passed the House of Commons Tuesday week by a majority of 21, and was borne in triumph to the Lords by Sir John Newport and a throng of members on Wednesday night. It was then read in the House for a first time. The second

- reading, when a great stand will be made upon it, is appointed for Tuesday." The bill was then thrown out by a majority of 48.
- Ibid.**—At a meeting of the Inverness Auxiliary of the Bible Society, it was stated that out of 31,396 families in the Highlands and Islands, whose circumstances had been examined, there were 11,944 families still without copies of the Bible. The sums remitted by the Auxiliary to the parent Society had been, up to date, £1630.
- June 9.**—The Inverness Society for the suppression of begging had a struggle for existence, subscriptions being apt to fall behind. At this time an effort was made to increase the contributions, as the Society was considered highly beneficial. The number of poor on the Society's list at the end of the first year (1816) was 168. The number at present was 123. The funds had decreased from nearly £500 to £200 per annum.
- Ibid.**—At a meeting of the Northern Missionary Society, held at Inverness, the collection "at the gate" amounted to £50, and subscriptions and donations, £32 13s 1½d; total, £82 13s 1½d.
- June 16.**—On the 9th inst. the foundation-stone of a new jail and court-house at Tain was laid with Masonic honours by Mr Donald Macleod of Geanies, Sheriff of the County, and Right Worshipful Master of St Duthus Lodge. Provost Murray and the Town Council assisted at the ceremony, and the Rev. Dr Mackintosh offered prayer.
- June 16 and 22.**—At the Wool Market reported in these issues the attendance was large and prices high, but business, especially in wool, was stiff. "The buyers and sellers of wool continued to its close so far asunder in their ideas of prices, that although there was a great extent of conditional business transacted, yet very few sales were finally settled. It is therefore not very easy to give precise information. Some Inverness-shire Cheviot of superior quality is said to have been sold at 18s, while a lot of Sutherland Cheviot fetched 22s. The average prices of Cheviot may be stated from 19s 6d to 22s, and of blackfaced at 20s and 21s; but in almost every case there was a reference of 1s or more in favour of the sellers. The following are the other market prices:—Cheviot wedders, 29s to 32s; ewes, 15s to 19s; lambs, 9s to 10s; blackfaced wedders, 22s to 26s; ewes, 11s to 13s; lambs, from 6s to 9s." [In consequence of the change in the mail service, the date of publishing the "Courier" was changed from Thursday to Wednesday.]
- June 29.**—Field-Marshal Macdonald, Duke of Tarentum, arrived at Inverness on Sunday, the

26th, and put up at the Caledonian Hotel. He was accompanied by an aide-de-camp, and by Mr Macdonald of Staffa. Previous to his arrival, he visited the Battlefield of Culloden. There "he expressed his surprise at the imbecility which dictated the choice of that spot for the position of the Pretender's army. No spot could be worse chosen for the position of an irregular body of men acting on the defensive against regular troops; and the wonder was increased, the General observed, when the neighbouring high grounds behind the water of Nairn afforded as fine a position as could be wished to obtain the objects and suit the circumstances of the Jacobite forces." Marshal Macdonald is described as thin in person and rather above the middle size; his hair quite grey, his eyes dark, his countenance rather round and sedate, and not indicative of the mental qualities he was reported to possess. He was plainly dressed in black, and like Napoleon took snuff in large quantities. He spoke little English, and that little imperfectly. "The fatigues of a soldier's life and the anxieties of political struggles appear to have brought on premature age, for he walked rather feebly, and with a manner that indicated an infirm state of health." Marshal Macdonald left on the Monday by the steamer Comet, for the West Coast, intending to visit South Uist, the birthplace of his father.

July 6 and 13.—Marshal Macdonald travelled by the Comet to Fort-William, going thence to Arisaig, where a sloop of war was in waiting to carry him to Skye and the Uists. The Marshal breakfasted and dined with the passengers on board the steamboat. Loyal toasts were exchanged, and the health of the distinguished visitor pledged. In Skye Marshal Macdonald was entertained at Armadale Castle, where two hundred of the tenantry gave him a welcome. Lord Macdonald was not at home, but his representative in the island did the honours. Marshal Macdonald passed the night in the Castle.

July 27.—Mr Davidson, yr. of Tulloch, who is described as a "most patriotic and beloved Highlander," brought home his young wife, daughter of Lord Macdonald of the Isles, to Tulloch Castle on the 25th inst. They were met by the tenantry, in Highland dress, on the north bank of the Conon, who unyoked the horses and drew the carriage to the Castle. A dinner was given at Dingwall, and the countryside blazed with bonfires.

August 3.—This number contains a full account of the tour of Marshal Macdonald through the Western Islands. In South Uist, his father's native island, he was welcomed by an assem-

blage of six hundred persons at Houghbeg. There he met with some of his own relatives, and distributed two hundred sovereigns in donations. He dined at Nunton, and slept in the room which had been occupied by Flora Macdonald.

Ibid.—There is a review of Mr John Anderson's History of the Frasers, just published.

August 10.—The Commissioners appointed to establish new churches in the Highlands and Islands give in their first report.

September 14.—A report of the Commissioners of Revenue states that illicit distillation has greatly diminished, but express disappointment at the extent to which it is still carried on. This they attribute to the mistaken opinion still entertained by Magistrates in certain districts that they are at liberty to mitigate penalties according to their own discretion.

September 28.—The Northern Meeting was held the previous week. The horse racing excited lively interest. Two gold cups were given, each value a hundred guineas, besides minor prizes. The Ross-shire gentry, headed by Mr Davidson, yr. of Tulloch, seem to have taken the most active part in the races.

October 5.—Alexander Mackenzie elected Provost of Fortrose; Major Charles Lennox Cumming Bruce of Roseisle and Kinnaird, elected Provost of Nairn; and James Augustus Grant of Viewfield elected Provost of Forres.

Ibid.—The Provost and Town Council of Forres conferred the freedom of the burgh on Sir James Macgrigor, M.D., Director-General of the Medical Department of the Army. On the same occasion Sir James was entertained to dinner by the local authorities. He was married to a Forres lady, daughter of the late Provost Grant, and sister of distinguished officers. The death of Lady Macgrigor's mother is noticed below.

October 12.—A meeting of Magistrates and inhabitants was held for the purpose of promoting a Police and Improvement Bill for the Burgh of Inverness.

October 19.—The Synod of Sutherland and Caithness having resolved to aid the Society for Educating the Poor in the Highlands, the Society appointed the Rev. Mr Fraser, of Kirkhill, and the Rev. Mr Sage, of Resolis, as a deputation to preach and receive contributions. The amount collected in the Synod was £124 16s 11d.

Ibid.—"Died, at Forres, on the 11th inst., aged 62, Mrs Jean Grant, relict of the late Duncan Grant, Esq., Provost of Forres. This much-respected lady having been deprived of her valuable husband while their numerous family were young, had great merit and satisfaction in their

progress in life. It is remarkable that at one period of the late war she had not, out of six sons in the service of their country, one in Europe; but three of them having accidentally returned to the parental roof just previous to her decease, they had the melancholy satisfaction of solacing her latter moments and of attending her remains to the grave."

October 26.—Very painful feelings were excited by the loss of the steamer *Comet*, plying between Inverness and Glasgow. On the morning of Friday, the 21st inst., she was run down between Gourock and the Clough Lighthouse by the steamer *Ayr*, outward bound. In rounding the point the vessels came in contact with such force and violence that the *Comet* went down almost instantaneously. Only ten persons were saved out of 80 who were believed to be on board. One of the saddest cases was that of Captain Wemyss Sutherland and his young wife, who were married at Muirtown, Inverness, in the beginning of September. Mrs Sutherland was the eldest daughter of Mr Duff of Muirtown.

Ibid.—"A bet between Mr Fraser of Culduthel and Mr Shepherd, of Inverness, was this day decided in favour of the latter gentleman. Culduthel wagered that Mr S.'s bay mare would not trot a distance of eight miles in half-an-hour, and this distance was trotted in twenty six minutes and a-half with great ease by Mr Shepherd on the Aird Road, from near Bogroy to the Canal Bridge of Muirtown."

Ibid.—At the Michaelmas Head Court for Ross-shire, Sir Wm. Fettes proposed the establishment of a steambot at Kessock, which was agreed to. At the same Court strong complaint was made that many clergymen insisted on dispensing the Communion at times "when the labours of seed-time and harvest were being carried on," thus in some instances causing serious loss. Special mention is made of a case in which the minister, in the end of the August preceding, insisted on having the Communion in spite of the remonstrances of his heritors. The meeting adopted a series of resolutions on the subject, concluding as follows:—"That this meeting feel that great inconvenience to the community and injury to our holy religion and to morality is occasioned by the immense assemblages usually convened on these occasions, in consequence of that solemn rite being too unfrequently dispensed in the several parishes; therefore, that the very reverend the Synod of Ross be further requested to enjoin their members to dispense, in their respective parishes, this sacred ordinance at least annually—speci-

ally avoiding the periods of seed-time and harvest, agreeably to the spirit and in conformity with the injunctions of the Directory for the public worship of God in our Church, which particularly require 'that the Communion be frequently administered, and at such periods as may be most convenient for the comfort and edification of the people.'"

November 16.—The condition of the Scottish gaols was at this time the subject of official inquiry. A Committee of the County of Inverness, of which Mr Grant of Rothiemurchus was convener, considered the subject and issued a report. It appears that in 1818 no fewer than 38 of the Royal Burghs of Scotland returned their gaols as insufficient in point of security and accommodation. The following is one of the paragraphs in the Report:—"For neither the religious nor moral instruction, nor medical care of the prisoners, is there any provision whatsoever in any of the ordinary gaols of Scotland. There is no chapel nor assembly of the prisoners, on any occasion, for religious worship, in any one of them; no chaplain nor regular attendance of any clergyman; no surgeon or medical visitor, nor any provision for a gratuitous supply of medicine and advice. Lastly, so far from any attempt being made to encourage or promote habits of industry, the construction of the gaols and their crowded state, render it impossible for those who might be the most industriously inclined to betake themselves to any useful employment." Another paragraph says—"Anything like well-aired places of confinement, either for debtors, for persons committed for trial, or for convicts; any fire-places in the cells or apartments of criminals; any means of taking air or exercise by any prisoner; any attention to cleanliness—these things are almost entirely unknown." The burden of maintaining prisoners and prisons fell on the burghs, and most of the burghs were little better than insolvent. The gross income of the burgh of Inverness is stated at £1559 12s 4d, but after deducting sums applied to particular purposes, only £425 1s 6d was left at the command of the burgh for the administration of the law, "so that the most rigid and parsimonious economy will hardly keep the town's debt from increasing." The Report states that the gaol in the Burgh of Inverness was not sufficient for the accommodation of either the civil or criminal prisoners confined therein; but so far as the accommodation went the gaol was perfectly adequate for the secure custody of its inmates. The question for consideration was whether the cost of main-

taining the gaols should be extended to the counties, or whether it should be borne by the national exchequer.

December 7.—“At Nagpore, on the 29th June last, Alexander Fraser Maclachlan, assistant surgeon on the Madras Establishment, eldest son of the Rev. James Maclachlan, Moy.” Mr Maclachlan was M.D. of Edinburgh, and had a distinguished University career.

December 14.—A meeting of Commissioners of Supply and Freeholders of the County of Inverness was called to discuss the question of the Corn Laws. A long series of resolutions was proposed in favour of maintaining these laws. An amendment was proposed declaring that it was premature to enter on such a discussion, and that the interests of the County of Inverness were more pastoral than agricultural. The most animated speech against the resolutions was made by Mr Grant of Corrimony. On a division, the amendment was adopted by 32 votes to 7. The “*Courier*,” in an article commending the decision of the meeting, says:—“Probably ten times as much corn is brought into this county as can be sent from it; and a large part of the population are, from utter want of bread, compelled to subsist for months every year on potatoes, shell fish, or sea weed; and yet this is the county in which it is attempted to take a lead in getting up petitions crying out for dear corn.”

December 21.—“We have frequently adverted to the salutary effects produced by the Distillery Laws, which came into operation about this time twelve months. From North to South we are gratified with the certain and pleasing intelligence that the pernicious traffic of the smuggler, with all its baneful effects, is going down fast before the operations of the large distiller. Thus has a judicious and well-directed legislative measure, affording encouragement and protection to the lawful trader, effected in one short year more than a host of Excisemen were able to accomplish in the Highlands for the last half-century, and more than they would do for fifty years to come. The revenue at the same time has been much benefited. We learn from unquestionable authority that the duties on malt and spirits alone, in the Inverness District, amounted to £1300 for the last six weeks, giving an increase of £870 on the duties of the corresponding six weeks of the former year. These duties were paid from the Inverness, Fortrose, Millburn, and Brackla Distilleries; and we learn further that from an extension of the works just mentioned, and the establishment of new distilleries at Inverness

and at Dores, on Loch-Ness, it is probable that the duties for the ensuing six weeks will nearly double those of the last. This is exclusive of licences of all kinds. In Ross-shire, Sutherland, and Caithness the effects of the new Distillery Laws are equally satisfactory."

December 28.—"The University of Edinburgh has conferred the degree of D.D. on the Rev. Alexander Rose, one of the ministers of Inverness. This degree, we have occasion to know, was bestowed quite spontaneously on the part of the University; and the honour is the more marked inasmuch as it is the first of this kind which has been conferred by that distinguished body for a considerable period."

Ibid.—There is a notice of the "Sutherlandshire Magazine," which was to be published about the middle of January.

Ibid.—There is a report of the trial of the master of the steamer Comet on a charge of culpable homicide. The indictment stated that the number of persons drowned was "62 or thereby." The master was convicted of neglecting to display lights, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

No. II.

A striking feature at this time was the want of education in the Highlands, and the efforts that were undertaken to provide means for improved instruction. The Church of Scotland, as usual, took an active part in promoting educational facilities. Principal Baird preached in Inverness, and collections were made in the churches amounting to £60.

In the summer of 1826 a new Parliament was elected. There was distress throughout the country, but in spite of that party spirit had sunk to such a low ebb that interest in the election was very languid. It is curious to be told that "even in some instances burghs are almost advertising for members to represent them." In the county of Inverness, however, the Right Hon. Charles Grant had to face a contest, the opposing candidate being Lord Macdonald. Mr Grant seems to have been regarded as a Whig of rather advanced opinions, and possibly there was also a feeling in some quarters that father and son had held the representation for a sufficiently long period. Readers will be interested in seeing an account of a contested election, held at a time when the electorate was so small. Mr Grant was returned by a large majority, as majorities then went. At the same time his brother, Robert Grant, was elected member for the burghs without a contest.

Locally the year was notable on account of other incidents. The first daily coach was run between Inverness and Perth; there was the introduction of gas light, which had been "partially tried" before the year closed; and there was the memorable storm at the time of the Martinmas market, in which many lives were lost throughout the Highlands.

1826.

January 4.—A paper circulated by the General Assembly states that the Synods of Argyll, Glenelg, Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness, Orkney and Zetland, containing 143 parishes and a population of 877,730 persons, are in the urgent need of not less than 250 additional schools. Taking an average of 42 for each school, the Committee calculate that there are 10,500 children under the age of fifteen without the means of education; and the Committee

are in fact satisfied that the number is much greater. "If persons of all ages are included, the number of those not taught to read exceeds belief. But how could it be otherwise when more parishes than one are described as not having a sufficient number of schools to accommodate one-tenth of their population? Several are said to be in need of three and four, and one of even six schools; and as to another, the appalling fact is mentioned that it consists of 1000 square miles, and has a population of 4747 souls, and that of these only 395 have learned to read at all."

Ibid.—At a meeting of the Northern Institution a number of articles of archaeological interest were presented. One is described as follows:—"Capital of one of the pilasters which supported the arched way passing from the old wooden bridge of Inverness through Castle Tolmie, found in the course of the road recently opened from the bridge along the north bank of the Ness. Bailie Ferguson."

January 4 and 11.—The two numbers contain notes on Northern towns, the observations of a summer ramble in 1825. There is nothing calling for quotation in the notes, but they may be worth looking at by anyone in search of comparisons. We are told that Fortrose is famed for its "Knights of the Awl," or shoemakers, and Rosemarkie for its weavers.

January 18.—A code of legal provisions for improving the condition of slaves was introduced into Trinidad.

Ibid.—There had been ten days of intense frost, and abundant skating in London. In Inverness it is noted that "we have neither professor nor amateur in the exhilarating sports of skating or curling." The Highland road from Perth to Inverness was open, while the coaches on the other roads were greatly delayed.

Ibid.—Upwards of 150 Clisholms and other natives of Strathglass had their usual match at shinty. The match was betwixt the Braes and the Strath. "The Braesmen supported the character for superior activity and expertness which they are said to possess, and though less numerous, carried the day."

January 25.—Intimation of the suspension of the London booksellers, Hurst, Robinson, & Co., which involved the downfall of Constable and the insolvency of Sir Walter Scott.

February 1.—Among the articles presented to the Northern Institution was a cast of the gold rod found at the Leys in 1824, given by Mr Naughton.

February 15.—Excitement aroused in Scotland by the proposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to abolish one pound notes.

February 22.—A meeting of heritors and tenants of houses was held to consider a local Police Bill proposed for the burgh of Inverness. There was a large attendance and a long discussion. In the end the Magistrates withdrew the bill.

March 1.—There is a description of the monument erected to the late Charles Grant, M.P. in St George's Church, Bloomsbury. The monument was erected by the East India Company as a tribute of respect to the memory of Mr Grant. It is described as one of the largest monuments in any church in London.

March 15.—“We have considerable satisfaction in observing that the project of a constant and daily conveyance by the Highland Road from Inverness to the South, which we have so long and so frequently advocated, is no longer a matter of doubt or difficulty with those who are best qualified to appreciate its possibility and its profits. Two coaches, belonging to separate concerns, are now running between Perth and Inverness three times a-week; and in a short time we find that one of these at least will run on that road every day.”

March 29.—“During the last week Scotland has had her full share of attention in both Houses. Besides the appointment of the most impartial Committee, given in our last paper, to inquire concerning the circulation of small notes, on Tuesday week a Committee was appointed, on the motion of the Lord Advocate, to inquire into the state of the Scottish prisons, which his lordship characterised as truly disgraceful.”

Ibid.—“A new Masonic Lodge was yesterday consecrated at Dingwall, called the Fingal Lodge. In the absence of Sir G. S. Mackenzie, Bart., Provincial Grand Master for Ross-shire, who could not attend on account of indisposition, the Lodge was consecrated by Colin Mackenzie, Esq. of Kilcoy, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, with true Masonic solemnity, assisted by deputations from St John's Kilwinning Lodge of Inverness and St Duthus Lodge of Tain, headed by their respective Masters, who acted as Provincial Grand Wardens.”

Ibid.—The death occurred at Brora on the 18th inst. of Alexander Urquhart, tidesman of the Customs, who is said to have been 111 years old. He was, it was stated, born at Tain in 1715. He possessed to the last a faithful memory of certain interesting particulars of the rising of 1745, and had seen many of the leading characters in it, particularly John Roy Stuart. “Honest Sandy,” as he is called, was never a soldier, but he was a sportsman and as deadly a shot as ever took the heather. “Employed in the capacity of gamekeeper to the

late Earl of Sutherland, he had frequent occasion to be on the moors with those noblemen and gentlemen who usually resorted to the North to enjoy the sporting seasons. With Baron Norton, Sir John Gordon of Embo, and the late General Wemyss, he was a particular favourite. Many of his anecdotes and repartees on this and other occasions are still remembered, to be laughed at right heartily; for although he was a plain, unassuming sort of man, his mode of conversation was tinged with a venial kind of bluntness and sarcastic humour peculiar to himself that rendered the aptness of his remarks irresistible, and no person, how dignified soever in rank, was exempted from his satire." Urquhart was an expert angler, and would talk with enthusiasm of hooks, rods, and flies, but he had a great contempt for what was then the modern improvement of gut and sea-weed casting lines. By the interest of Lord Ankerville, he was appointed, about 1780, tide-waiter of the Customs at Inverness, from which he was soon afterwards transferred to Brora. He was superannuated in 1812, with an allowance of £23 a year. "He was a man of very temperate habits—was never known to have been, even once, intoxicated. He would most willingly take one glass of spirits, but no persuasion would induce him to go beyond that, as he always considered one dram his gauge, as he called it, and above that was hurtful. He never complained of ill-health till within the last twelve months of his life. His dress was invariably the same: full round-breasted coat, a vest of old-fashioned cut, and a small, flat blue bonnet. A lady once made a present to him of a fine hat, but he considered it such an invasion on the ancient rights of the bonnet that it was laid aside and never used."

April 12.—A correspondent writes to express surprise that there is "neither a stick nor a stone" to mark the site of Culloden Battlefield. Many years elapsed before this want was supplied.

April 26.—On the previous Sunday the Rev. Principal Baird preached in the English (High) Church in support of the scheme for improving the means of religious instruction in the Highlands. The collection in that church amounted to £47 1s, and in other churches to £12 19s—total, £60. Principal Baird was in Inverness for several days, and was presented with the freedom of the burgh—"an honour," says the paragraph, "conferred, we understand, on no individual since it was bestowed on Prince Leopold."

Ibid.—The anniversary of the Northern Missionary Society was held at Dingwall. The collection and contributions amounted to £46 2s 3d.

April 26 and May 3.—The former issue records the death of Sir Hector Mackenzie, Bart. of Gairloch, Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Ross, who expired at Canon House on 22nd April. In the next issue a tribute is paid to his memory. "Hospitality, generous, open, manly friendship, mild, unaffected, and what may be termed honest dignity of deportment, accompanied by hearty kindness, distinguished him in a remarkable manner. He took great delight in forwarding the views of others, and was always ready to obey the dictates of benevolence. In public affairs, where he differed from others, he did so in a manner that could not possibly offend." Sir Hector was sixty-eight years of age.

May 3.—At the Inverness County meeting a petition was adopted to the House of Commons praying that the County should not be taxed with the burden of alimentering prisoners, which the Convention of Royal Burghs proposed as an alternative for the better regulation of the Scottish gaols and the due maintenance of the prisoners confined in them. The same meeting adopted resolutions in favour of erecting tolls in the county in aid of assessment. It was stated that the burden of assessment was at that time upwards of 9 per cent. on the net rental of the county.

May 10.—Mr Adam Davidson, writer, was duly admitted procurator in the Sheriff Court of Nairn on Friday, 5th inst.

May 17.—The Inverness Auxiliary of the Inverness Bible Society held its fourteenth annual meeting on the 10th inst. The total amount of funds accounted for by the treasurer was £281 18s 9d. This, however, included a balance of £77 19s 3d brought forward from last year, a legacy of £20, and a sum of £30 11s 3d, realised from the sale of Scriptures.

Ibid.—A circular from the Excise Office set forth that in consequence of the extent and audacity with which a band of smugglers, who had established themselves in Glen-Naughty and other glens in that quarter of Aberdeenshire were carrying on their operations and resisting the Revenue officers, the Earls of Aboyne and Fife, Sir Alexander Leith, and other proprietors, had instructed their agents, bailiffs, and ground officers to render every assistance to the officers of revenue in destroying their smuggling utensils, and burning the huts or bothies in which they carried on their operations; also to dismiss any tenant who was concerned in illicit distillation, and to take measures for preventing itinerant smugglers from cutting or providing a stock of peat. These measures were recommended to the consideration of landowners in the Highlands.

May 24.—At a special county meeting held on the 19th inst. resolutions in favour of imposing tolls were reaffirmed by a majority of 41 to 14.

May 31.—At the General Assembly on 22nd May, a petition was presented from parties in the counties of Ross and Cromarty praying the Assembly to take measures to enforce the regular celebration of the Sacrament in the different parishes in these counties, and to prevent the clergymen doing so during the periods of seed time and harvest. The memorial stated that it had not been the practice to celebrate the Communion regularly in various parishes in the counties of Ross and Cromarty; that in one parish it had been omitted for seven years; and that in many it was unusual to celebrate.

June 7.—Parliament was dissolved on the previous Thursday, 1st June. An editorial article says:—"A large portion of his Majesty's Ministers and of his Majesty's Opposition think so much alike upon most subjects of general interest that a desire for the triumph of any particular principles as between these parties will now hardly suffice to render either very strenuous in their exertions to secure seats for their adherents. Accordingly we find very few places in which contests are expected, and even in some instances burghs are almost advertising for members to represent them."

Ibid.—A daily coach between Inverness and Perth began to run on the 6th inst. It was called the Caledonian Coach, and started from the Caledonian Hotel at five in the morning. "The enterprising spirit," we are told, "of a few private individuals has accomplished what has hitherto been deemed by many to be altogether impracticable, and accordingly we have now an opportunity of journeying from this town to the Metropolis of Scotland, a distance of 160 miles, in the short space of 24 hours, including four hours' rest at Perth."

June 21.—The election for the burgh of Hedon, in Yorkshire, took place on the 12th inst., the successful candidates being Colonel Baillie and Mr Villiers. "Colonel Baillie," says the paragraph, "is a gentleman of some property in the County of Inverness, and a director of the East India Company." The Inverness property was the estate of Leys.

June 28.—The Inverness Sheep and Wool Market was held the previous week. There was great apprehension that prices would be very low, "lower than they were for the last thirty years," but this fear was not realised. The price of wool was as good as it was in 1822 and 1824, and much better than it was in 1823. The prices of sheep were nearly as in 1820, which

was an excellent market, and higher than from 1821 to 1824. The market, however, was very stiff, as sellers did not care to submit to a substantial reduction from the rates of 1825. "A good deal of interest was excited on the second day by the decision of a sweepstake of £10 for tups, between Mr Sellar of Morvich and Mr Laidlaw, Knockfin. The tups were the best in the respective stocks of these gentlemen, and were shown fleeced and unfleeced. The judgment was in favour of Mr Sellar, who very liberally expended the greater part of his winning in a 'go' of claret."

Ibid.—The Hon. Colonel F. W. Grant of Grant was unanimously re-elected M.P. for the County of Moray at Elgin on Monday last. Colonel Grant gave a splendid entertainment in the afternoon to a numerous body of gentlemen, freeholders, &c., in the County Hall of Elgin.

July 5.—"Inverness District of Burghs. The election of the Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs took place at Fortrose on Monday last, the 3rd inst., when Robert Grant, Esq. of Lincoln's Inn, London, was unanimously elected." This is the full report of the election for the burghs in the file of the above date. Robert Grant was a younger brother of the Member for the County.

Ibid.—Sir J. W. Mackenzie of Scatwell was re-elected Member for Ross-shire. Sir Hugh Innes of Lochalsh, Bart., was for the fourth time elected member for the Northern Burghs without opposition.—The Hon. Alexander Duff, brother of the Earl of Fife, was chosen member for the Elgin Burghs.

July 12.—There is a full report of the proceedings at the election of a member for the County of Inverness, the first contested election that had occurred for a long time. Opposition to the Right Hon. Charles Grant, Vice-President of the Board of Trade, had been threatened for some time. Colonel Baillie of Leys, Macleod of Macleod, and Lord Macdonald of the Isles, had all announced their intention of coming forward. The first two, however, retired, and the contest lay between Mr Grant and Lord Macdonald. At noon on the 7th inst. the freeholders assembled in the Court-house in Bridge Street, but the public interest being intense, they adjourned to the High Church. Colonel F. W. Grant, M.P., was appointed Chairman. The church was crowded. "The front seats of the gallery were graced with the presence of several high-born and elegantly dressed ladies"; the large pew "technically called the Latron" was occupied by the Chairman, the candidates, and a few friends; and Glengarry took pos-

session of the precentor's box. The applications of new claimants to be placed on the Voters' Roll occupied a large part of the proceedings. Every case was argued by Counsel. "Their contentions lasted from about two o'clock on Friday afternoon until nine on Saturday morning"; and by this time the ladies in the gallery had gone home, and many of the freeholders were asleep. The latter, however, wakened up when the next stage began. Sir Ewen Cameron of Fassfern, who was in his 87th year, moved the election of the Right Hon. C. Grant as Member for the County. Mr A. N. Macleod of Harris seconded the motion. Macleod of Macleod, after explaining how he had seen it his duty to retire from his own candidature, nominated Lord Macdonald, which proposal was seconded by Mackintosh of Mackintosh. Both candidates then spoke. The poll showed 49 votes for Mr Grant and 10 for Lord Macdonald; the latter being further supported by 14 whose votes were tendered but rejected. Mr Grant was supported by the great majority of Highland Chiefs and gentry, whose confidence in himself he spoke of with natural pride. He afterwards entertained a company of 140 to dinner. Lord Macdonald also entertained a considerable party, and the rivals exchanged deputations and drank one another's health.

Ibid.—A general meeting of the Inverness Gas and Water Company was held in the Town Hall. Provost Robertson of Aultnaskiach was elected Chairman, and the following directors were appointed:—Mr Maclean, land surveyor; Dr Nicol; Mr Macandrew, solicitor; Mr Smith of Dalmore; Mr Grey, merchant; Dr Alexr. Macdonald; Mr Macleod of Parkhill; Mr Edwards, solicitor; Mr Simon Fraser, merchant; and Convener Williamson. The buildings for the gasometer were reported as being nearly completed, and a considerable quantity of gas piping had arrived.

July 19.—There is an article on the distress prevailing throughout the country. "It appears from the newspapers of the Midland and Northern Counties of England, as well as those from the South and West of Scotland, that the number of persons out of work is daily increasing; and neither poor rates nor charitable contributions will long suffice to support the immense numbers now dependent on them." The effect of the Corn Laws was warmly discussed.

July 26.—Lord Francis Leveson Gower was elected Member for the County of Sutherland.

August 16.—"The number of distinguished and fashionable personages who have this year visited the Highlands of Scotland has been

beyond all precedent. . . Every shooting-box in the Highlands, far and near, is now filled with sportsmen of all ranks and conditions, from the highest-sounding aristocratic titles down to the pleasure-hunting Cockney." In most of the cases mentioned, however, it is evident that the Highland proprietors were entertaining guests.

September 6.—"Ministers have done themselves infinite honour by resolving on their own responsibility to open the ports for the immediate admission of foreign oats, oatmeal, rye, pease, and beans, on payment of the following duties:—Oats, per quarter, 2s; oatmeal, per boll, 2s 2d; rye, pease, and beans, per quarter, 3s 6d. This measure, which secures the subsistence of the poor, at a period of apprehended scarcity, is founded on information laid before his Majesty, by which it appears that the home average price of oats, pease, &c., exceeded that at which, by Act of Parliament, the importation of foreign wheat was allowed; that the crops of oats, pease, and beans of the present year had failed to a considerable extent; and that a deficiency in the potato crop was apprehended in many parts of the United Kingdom. These considerations, joined with the actual distress of the times, have induced Ministers wisely to adopt this measure for the relief of the people."

September 20.—The Rev. Charles Bayne, sometime minister at Fort-William, was on Wednesday, 13th inst. admitted to the pastoral charge of the Parish of Fodderty, vacant by the death of the Rev. Mr Mackenzie.

September 27.—The Northern Meeting was held on the previous week, and included races at Dunancroy. Note is taken of the fact that the dinners, which were held as usual on each of the three days, were attended by gentlemen only. "We believe that this year was the only one, since the Meeting was instituted in 1788, at which the ladies did not appear at the dinner." No reason is assigned for their absence. A service of silver plate was presented to Mr Fraser of Culduthel for his long and valuable services as secretary of the Meeting.

Ibid.—Dr Robertson of Aultnaskiach was re-elected Provost of Inverness.

October 11.—"We understand that George Cumming, Esq., London, late representative in Parliament for this District of Burghs, has, in the most liberal manner, on retiring from that distinguished situation, presented the town of Nairn with an elegant eight-day clock, of the most superior machinery. This recent mark of the worthy member's attachment has been

duly appreciated by a community whose interests had uniformly received his most assiduous attention."

October 18.—It is stated that the Right. Hon. William Dundas, Lord Register of Scotland, has been elected Provost of Tain.

October 25.—The Right Hon. Charles Grant, Member for the County of Inverness, and his brother, Robert Grant, Member for the District of Burghs, were presented on the 21st inst. with the freedom of the town of Forres.

November 1.—At a meeting of the Northern Institution, it was announced that Mr John Anderson, W.S., author of the History of the Frasers, and one of the secretaries of the Society of Antiquaries, was the winner of the gold medal presented by Sir George Mackenzie of Coul, for an essay on the State of Society and Knowledge in the Highlands in 1745, and the Progress made to the Present Day. Sir George was present, and presented the medal to Mr Anderson, delivering at the same time an address which is spoken of in high terms.

November 29.—On Friday the 24th inst. a disastrous snow-storm occurred, the effects of which were long remembered. About seven in the morning a furious gale burst out, accompanied by thick falling snow and occasional showers of sleet. "The Martinmas Market, which held here that day, was the means of leading many persons from home, and the town was more crowded than could have been expected from the state of the weather. During the whole of that day and the following night the storm continued unabated, and even in town it became a matter of peril to pass from one house or street to another. As little or no business could be done in the streets, many people resorted in groups to the shelter afforded by the closes in town, and others to the public-houses, and it is to be feared that to the necessarily prolonged visits of the people to these places of entertainment, several of the accidents of that night must be ascribed. The loss of lives of people venturing home from the town to their places of abode in the country is variously estimated: there is a certainty, however, that no fewer than 11 or 12 perished in the vicinity of Inverness. A man and a woman were found dead next morning near Castle Stewart, and two other persons died on the road from this town to Nairn. A woman of the name of Grant, although accompanied by a sister, who could offer her little help, expired at the bridge of Moniack, within a short distance of her own home. Two young men who left town for Strathdearn in the evening were found in a state of exhaustion by the

wayside, and died shortly thereafter while under the hands of some kind friends who were administering to their relief. Two men (Alexander Fraser, a labourer, and Peter Cameron, a weaver) were found dead, the former near Cuidrash and the latter near Ardedrean, in the hill between Urquhart and the Aird; a woman and her son, a boy of fifteen years of age, were likewise found dead at Duntemple, near the Church of Boleskine, and within 200 yards of their own door. Thus there is the certainty of eleven persons at least having perished that evening. A tailor of the name of Fraser, from Garnabeg, in Urquhart, left Abriachan on Friday for his own house, and has not since been heard of. Two of the shepherds on the farm of Borlum, near Fort-Augustus, have likewise been missing since Friday; and it is feared that these last must be added to this melancholy list of deaths. Many were found on the roads in an exhausted and powerless condition; but by the kind ministrations of passers by and neighbours, they have providentially recovered." The coaches between Aberdeen and Inverness were delayed many hours by the storm; one gave up the attempt to make its way. To the North the roads were clearer, although the mails had to be carried across the Ord of Caithness on horseback. The storm, having begun on Friday morning, abated somewhat on Saturday; Sunday was comparatively clear, but still intensely cold and boisterous; "even Monday and Tuesday were days on which no person who could stay in the house would be seen out."

December 6.—A continuation of the account of the storm states that the loss of lives from the borders of Aberdeenshire and Perthshire was ascertained to be at least twenty-six, and there were a few people still missing. Besides that, more than twenty vessels had been wrecked, among these sixteen in the Moray Firth. There was great loss among sheep. Many trees had also been blown down.

Ibid.—The gas light was now ready for use in town, and had been partially tried, giving universal satisfaction. Arrangements were made by which the town was to have about seventy public gas lamps, besides twenty of the old stamp maintained in the suburbs and remote lanes.

December 27.—There is a record of the death of the Rev. John Ross, who had gone out as leader and pastor of an English colony planted by the Columbian Agricultural Association. Mr Ross had an active and varied career on the London press before he undertook this Mission.

No. III.

The year 1827 is memorable for the retirement of Lord Liverpool from the office of Prime Minister, which he had held for fifteen years, and for the short and troubled term of George Canning's Premiership. Lord Liverpool was a man of remarkable tact, who kept together a party and a Cabinet composed of conflicting elements. In February 1827 he was laid aside by an apoplectic seizure, but so difficult was it to fix on a successor that he was nominally kept in office until April. "He never recovered sufficient consciousness to enable him to resign his office." In April the King, much against his will, called on George Canning to form an administration. Though Canning had been a powerful Minister, he was greatly distrusted by the Tory party, and seven of his colleagues resigned. He managed to construct a Government with the aid of the Whigs, but his health was weak, and the opposition to which he was subjected wore out his strength. He died on the 8th of August.

The Notes in the second part of 1827 give a good deal of information as to the social condition of the town and district. The youth of Inverness seem to have been lawless, and smuggling was still far from extinct. The note on the "black huts" in Highland parishes possesses considerable interest.

From the "Inverness Courier."

1827.

January 3.—"Although the choice of gas lights in this town has become pretty general in a very brief space of time, yet we think it right to press the matter a little further on the attention of our townsmen and of our readers in general. In doing so, we feel ourselves justified, inasmuch as it was only since our last publication that the formalities of establishing gas lights were gone into. On the evenings of Thursday and Saturday last, Mr Anderson, of Perth, under whose special direction the gas lights of this town have been brought to so happy a state of perfection, delivered two lectures in the Town Hall on the benefits and economy of using this light in preference to any other kind of artificial light yet discovered." A report of a passage of Mr Anderson's lectures

follows. The directors of the gas works and other friends celebrated the inauguration of the light by dining in the Caledonian Hotel.

January 10.—The Duke of York died on 5th January, in the sixty-fourth year of his age. By his demise the succession to the British Crown devolved on the Duke of Clarence, afterwards William IV.; and it is noted that the next heir-presumptive was the Princess Alexandrina Victoria, daughter of the late Duke of Kent.

Ibid.—A movement had sprung up in the Northern Counties for a lighthouse in the Moray Firth. Some of the petitions advocated the selection of Tarbatness as the site; others proposed the Covesea or Stotfield Skerries. At this time there was no lighthouse west of Peterhead. The disastrous storm of the previous November had given an impetus to the movement.

January 17.—Severe weather, which set in on the first day of the year, continued unabated. Frost, snow, thaw, and gales of wind, alternated in rapid succession. "There has consequently been a greater irregularity in the arrival of the mails than has been known since the month of February 1823, when nine mails were due one morning in this town from the South. During the last fourteen days, four of the Caithness mails were due here at a time; and the South mails were oftener than once from 12 to 16 hours behind their stated hour. The rivers flooded during the present week to an unprecedented extent."

Ibid.—Among gifts presented to the Northern Institution the following are noted:—An ancient stone reading desk, supported on a wreathed column, found while clearing out the foundations of St Giles Church, Elgin. Two beautifully sculptured heads, supposed to be from the roof of Elgin Cathedral. A small square of coloured glass and four copper coins found in the rubbish of St Giles Church. From Isaac Forsyth, Elgin.

January 24.—It is noted that at a late meeting of the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses, three additional stations were resolved upon, viz., Tarbat-Ness, in the Moray Firth; Cape Wrath, in Sutherland; and the Mull of Galloway, in Wigtownshire. A paragraph in the next issue says that through the exertions of Mr Wm. Young, of Burghead, the Commissioners were also likely to place a lighthouse at Covesea.

February 14.—The subject of the Corn Laws continues to be vigorously discussed. In this issue it is stated that the Magistrates met in

the Town Hall to consider the prices charged for bread, and reduced the loaf a halfpenny. The following were the rates fixed:—The quartern loaf of fine flour, 9½d; the household loaf, 7½d. "These prices," says the paragraph, "may be considered high, but taking the acknowledged superiority of the Inverness bread and the price of flour into account, there is little cause for complaint."

February 28.—This issue gives a report of the meeting in Edinburgh at which the authorship of the Waverley Novels was publicly disclosed. The meeting was the festival of the patrons of the Edinburgh Theatrical Fund. Lord Meadowbank made the announcement in giving the health of Sir Walter Scott, and Scott, in a pawky speech, replied.

March 7.—What is known as the apocrypha controversy was at this time raging throughout the country. It had to do with the sanction given by the British and Foreign Bible Society to the circulation on the Continent of the apocryphal books bound up with the Scriptures. The Inverness-shire Auxiliary discussed the question, and adopted the following resolution:—"That the Inverness-shire Society for disseminating the Bible ought to have the power of employing their funds as they see most expedient, and therefore that they cease to be exclusively an Auxiliary to any Society whatever."

March 14.—Terrible snow-storms were experienced in the early days of this month. The storms were even more severe in the South of Scotland and in the North of England than in the Highlands. In the gales a great many vessels were wrecked.

March 28.—County meetings were held to consider the proposals of the Government on the Corn Laws. At the Inverness meeting it was resolved that the price of 60s per quarter for wheat does not afford an adequate protection, as wheat cannot be grown in this country so as to remunerate the grower at a less price than 64s per quarter; that the price of 32s per quarter for barley does not afford an adequate remuneration to the grower, as barley cannot be grown in this country at a less price than 35s per quarter; and that 26s for oats per quarter is as low as that species of grain can be grown without injury to the agriculturist. Other county meetings passed similar resolutions.

Ibid.—"Died, at Dalkeith, on the 11th *curt.*, Mrs Isabella Ramsay, wife of James Watson, Esq., representative of the ancient families of Moray and Kinnaid of Culbin, in Moray-shire."

April 4.—“The elegant new Roman Catholic Chapel built at Wester Eskadale, in Strathglass, by Thomas Alexander Fraser, Esq. of Lovat, was opened on Sunday last for divine worship.”

Ibid.—One of the honorary members elected to the Northern Institution was Mr R. I. Murchison (known later to fame as Sir Roderick), secretary to the Geological Society of London. A letter from Murchison was also read on the coal deposits at Brora. A paper was read on the geology of the River Findhorn, written by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder. A manuscript was also presented, which is described as “a curious local record of occurrences in Inverness, which appears to have been kept by the old family of Chives of Muirtown.”

Ibid.—An article on public libraries in the North contains some interesting information. “The first book shop in Inverness appears to have been opened about the year 1775; but we believe there are some persons still alive who recollect when the stationery of our Northern Capital and its minor brethren was supplied by the Postmaster alone, who generally kept a few sheets of writing paper, pens, and ink, stuffed in among his packages of dried plums, sugar, and tobacco. We have also been told by some kind old friends that in their younger days the library of a respectable Highland laird often contained no more than a copy of the Bible, a few almanacks, and parcels of the old Edinburgh Advertiser or Scots Magazine.” The oldest Subscription Library in the North was that of Mr Forsyth, Elgin. It was established in 1780, and now contained upwards of 5000 volumes. In 1820 a Subscription Library was opened in Inverness, and about the same time similar associations were started in Nairn, Campbelltown, Dingwall, Tain, Skye, Tobermory, Fort-William, and Stromness. A library had been instituted at Forres some years before. The article gives an account of the library of theological and historical books bequeathed to Inverness in 1740 by Dr James Fraser, of Chelsea, and still preserved in the Session-house of the Inverness High Church.

Ibid.—“At Moy, near Forres, on the 17th ult., at an advanced age, Mrs Grant of Moy, wife of the late Colonel Hugh Grant of Moy. This venerable lady was maternal aunt of the Marquis de Lauriston, Marechal of France, of Francis John William Law of Lauriston, Esq., in the County of Edinburgh, and grand-aunt of Culling Charles Smith, Esq., Receiver-General of the Customs of England, brother-in-law of Field-Marshal the Duke of Wellington.

The mortal remains of Mrs Grant were conveyed from Forres by a great number of the respectable gentlemen of this neighbourhood, to the family burying-ground in the retired valley of Urquhart, on the banks of Loch-Ness; and her interment may be noticed as being among the lingering instances of a genuine Highland funeral, where the wild music of the pipe, the feast, and the shell formed indispensable accompaniments of the obsequies."

April 18.—The Earl of Liverpool, who had been long Prime Minister, was stricken with apoplexy in February, but retained office until April. It is now announced that George Canning had formed a new Administration, but he was opposed by a strong section of his own party. Seven colleagues resigned on his appointment as Prime Minister.

Ibid.—The town of Inverness is declared to be at this time "in a state of immorality and disorder, scarcely ever remembered." There were many thefts and what are called riots. "Such is the disorderly state of the town that none but a brave man dare venture to be out after nightfall, liable as he is to be insulted or to have his pocket picked." The want of an efficient police force encouraged this state of things.

Ibid.—The previous week a party of revenue men were compelled to retreat from Strathglass. They put up at the public-house at Comar, and were warned that if they did not instantly return, "after what they had already destroyed," worse would happen to them. Mr Macniven, who was in charge of the party, disregarded the warning, and next morning set forward. "About two miles beyond the public-house a smart fire commenced from the upper grounds, and on arriving in a narrow pass of the road, his further progress was opposed by about twenty men, armed with muskets and arrayed within gunshot. The Revenue party, consisting of ten men, being armed only with pistols and short cutlasses, had no alternative but to retreat from the determined purpose of slaughter shown by the smugglers, and retired accordingly from the unequal contest; nor is it of any avail for the Revenue officers to attempt a seizure in that quarter until powerfully reinforced and efficiently armed."

Ibid.—The prize essay by Mr John Anderson on the state of the Highlands is noticed at length in this issue.

April 25.—"The Right Hon. Charles Grant of Glenelg has paid a legacy of £200 left by his father to the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge in Scotland. Mr Grant has made

a further donation of £50 from himself to that Society."

Ibid.—There is a long report of a trial of three men from Caithness, charged with mobbing and rioting at the Caithness election. They were found guilty of mobbing with intent to obstruct, and were sentenced to three months' imprisonment. As the Jail of Wick was represented to be insufficient, they were ordered to be confined in the Jail of Tain.

May 9.—"Died here on the 25th ult., Mr John Nicol, aged 62. The character of Mr Nicol afforded an eminent example of the power and beauty of Christian principle. He was by trade a common mason, and was deprived of sight in his 35th year; yet although blind and comparatively indigent, he became an instrument of great usefulness, particularly in the extension of religious instruction by means of Sabbath Schools; and he was regarded among a wide circle of every rank as an object of general reverence and esteem, for he adorned his religious profession by singular devotedness, uprightness, and sincerity. His death being felt as a public loss, several of the Magistrates and clergy of the town appeared as chief mourners at his funeral, and on the following Sabbath, the Rev. John Macdonald of Urquhart delivered an impressive funeral sermon to a crowded congregation."

May 23.—"We gather from the proceedings in Parliament that a great improvement has taken place in every branch connected with the trade of the manufacturing districts. There has also been a gradual improvement in the receipts of the revenue since the commencement of the present quarter; and the Minister's Budget is likely to be much more satisfactory than was anticipated three months ago."

May 30.—At the time of the meeting of the General Assembly, a hundred gentlemen who took a warm interest in the scheme for establishing additional schools and catechists in the Highlands and Islands supped in the Waterloo Hotel. Principal Baird was in the chair, and the croupiers were Lord Glenorchy, Macleod of Macleod, and Dr Chalmers. It was mentioned that 35 schools had already been established, and means of instruction conveyed to 2000 persons. The success of the scheme, it was stated, was specially due to Dr Baird. It may be noted that this supper party sat till two o'clock a.m.

Ibid.—The University of Tubingen conferred the degree of Doctor of Medicine on Dr J. I. Nicol, Inverness, and elected him a member of the Faculty.

Ibid.—Lord Francis Leveson-Gower, having accepted office as a Commissioner of the Treasury, had to seek re-election for the County of Sutherland. The election took place at Dornoch on the 23rd.

June 13.—“We notice with great satisfaction the progress of several improvements in the way of taking down old and ruinous houses and building new and handsome ones in their room. The turnpike and the projecting turret which for upwards of a century disfigured our High Street is now giving way for a fine modern building of improved construction. An old tenement in Bridge Street, opposite the Court-house has likewise been taken down, and a new one is in course of being built. The Commercial Banking Company have contracted for an elegant building in Church Street, and our Theatre in Inglis Street has been converted into spacious shops.”

Ibid.—The Inverness Bible Society voted £60 to the British and Foreign Bible Society; £20 to the same Society to circulate Hebrew Testaments among the Jews; £20 to the Irish Evangelical Society; and to the Edinburgh Gaelic Society £20 in aid of a pocket edition of the Gaelic Bible—in all, £120.—The Northern Missionary Society held its twenty-sixth anniversary meeting in Inverness. Collection at the gate, £46 10s; donations and subscriptions, £23 15s.

June 20.—The Corn Bill promoted by the Government was met in the House of Lords by an amendment, proposed by the Duke of Wellington. The amendment was carried, and the bill was lost. A temporary measure was passed releasing corn in bond.

June 27.—The Duke of Gordon died on the 17th inst. at his residence in Mount Street, Berkeley Square, London. He was born in 1743, and succeeded his father in 1752. He married in 1767 Jane, daughter of William Maxwell of Monreath, who died in 1812, and by whom he had issue—George, Marquis of Huntly, born in 1770; and five daughters, namely, Duchess-Dowager of Richmond, Lady Margaret Palmer, Duchess of Manchester, Marchioness Cornwallis, and Duchess of Bedford. The notice of the Duke says:—“To those who enjoyed the hospitality of Gordon Castle his affability was peculiarly pleasing. It was not the affected condescension of the great man to his inferiors, but the genuine politeness of a nobleman who preserved his own dignity without forcing on others the consciousness of their own humbler lot. He was for more than half-a-century in possession of the Gordon Estates,

and his tenants were often heard to remark, in their unsophisticated style of praise, 'that the Duke's word was as good as his bond.' That his Grace had failings which embittered his domestic life we shall neither deny nor extenuate; but in spite of them we have no hesitation in saying that he will be long remembered and deeply regretted by those who had the honour of his acquaintance." The Marquis of Huntly, who had long been a man of mark in the country, now succeeded his father as Duke of Gordon.

Ibid.—The improved state of the country is the subject of a long article connected with the annual Sheep and Wool Market. As to this market, the writer says:—"We have the best grounds for knowing that about 120,000 stones of wool and 150,000 sheep were disposed of on terms generally agreeable to all parties. The prices on an average were from 15 to 20 per cent. higher than those of last year, and more than 50 per cent. better than could have been justly expected, considering the state of the country at the close of last year and at the commencement of the present one."

Ibid.—John Peter Grant, Esq. of Rothiemurchus late M.P. for Tavistock, is appointed one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Bombay.

July 4.—There is a notice of the death of Mr Alexander Wilson, tenant of Gervally, a native of Berwickshire, who had been brought north in 1798 by Mr Cumming of Relugas to superintend improvements on his estate. Mr Wilson afterwards carried out improvements at Dunphail and Logie, and Mr Peterkin's property of Grange. He became tenant of the farms of Downduff, Logie, Ardoch, and Gervally, which "gave him complete control over an extensive range of the twin valleys of the Findhorn and Divie, where the barren parts felt the full influence of his exertions, and the rugged wilderness became a smiling land, spreading its yellow crops widely beneath the autumnal sun." The Counties of Moray and Nairn, it is stated, benefited greatly by his superior skill in engineering public roads and other country operations. He is spoken of as a man of great independence and integrity, and universally respected.

Ibid.—A gang of thieves who had long infested the town of Inverness attacked a man in the Green of Muirtown, and robbed him of a pocket-book containing a deposit receipt of £70. It is stated that seven persons were implicated, and three young men were soon apprehended. "The state of the town," says the

paragraph, "loudly calls for the establishment of an efficient police, and a power to inflict summary punishments on such characters."

July 11.—At a general meeting of the shareholders of the Gas and Water Company, the directors gave in their financial report, showing capital stock called up and obligations due by the Company amounting in all to £8736. The directors did not think it would be prudent or advantageous as yet "to commence active operations in the water department; but they trusted that at no distant period this improvement, so long and so much wanted in Inverness, would be gone into."

July 25.—At the High Court of Justiciary on the 15th inst., two men from the Cabrach were tried for being among a party which had opposed the Revenue officers with fire-arms. The party numbered from 15 to 20 men, and fired several volleys at the officers, wounding one man. The accused, who pleaded guilty to de-forcement, were sentenced to transportation for life. Other two had been charged. One did not appear, and was outlawed, while an objection was sustained to the citation of the other.

Ibid.—A party of the 74th Regiment, whose depot was at Perth, was detached to Castleton of Braemar, and another from the 25th Regiment at Aberdeen to Corgarf, with the view of assisting to suppress smuggling in these quarters.

August 1.—The remains of the late Duke of Gordon were brought north to Gordon Castle, where they lay in state for several days. On the 24th ult. they were interred with great ceremony in the family tomb in Elgin Cathedral. A long account is given of the funeral.

August 8.—At a county meeting, it was unanimously resolved to erect toll gates on the Fort-George Road and the Highland Road under the provisions of the Road Act, Mr Mitchell being authorised to erect these gates where he considered proper. The meeting resolved to apply for powers to erect further tolls.

Ibid.—The death is announced of Mr Charles Pickton, teacher of the Inverness Central School, where he had charge of 400 children, under the Lancastrian system. Mr Pickton was a native of England, and at the head of a large school in New York before coming to Inverness. He had to leave the States on account of ill-health. In Inverness he was very successful and much respected.

August 15.—The death is announced of the Prime

Minister, George Canning, and a warm tribute is paid to his talents and services.

Ibid.—Lord Colchester was at this time in the North on a tour of inspection of the Parliamentary roads and bridges. He was presented with the freedom of the burghs of Inverness, Dingwall, Tain, and Dornoch. At Inverness, at the same time, Mr Fraser of Lovat, "who possesses a high hereditary claim to this privilege," was also presented with the freedom.

August 22.—"John Macdonald, a Highlander, died at Edinburgh last week at the advanced age of 107. He was born in Glen-Tinsdale, in the Isle of Skye, and like the other natives of that quarter, was bred to rural labour. Early one morning, while looking after his black cattle, he was surprised by the sight of two ladies, as he thought, winding slowly round a hill, and approaching the spot where he stood. When they came up, they inquired for a well or stream where a drink of water could be obtained. He conducted them to the Virgin Well, an excellent spring, which was held in great reverence on account of its being the scene of some superstitious and legendary tales. When they had quenched their thirst, one of the ladies rewarded Macdonald with a shilling, the first silver coin of which he was possessed. At their own request, he escorted them to a gentleman's house at some distance; and there, to his great surprise and satisfaction, he learned that the two 'ladies' were Flora Macdonald and Prince Charles Stewart. This was the proudest incident in Macdonald's patriarchal life, and when surrounded by his Celtic brethren, he used to dilate on all the relative circumstances with a sort of hereditary enthusiasm and more than the common garrulity of age. He afterwards turned joiner, and bore a conspicuous part in the building of the first Protestant Church which was erected in the Island of North Uist. He came to Edinburgh 23 years ago, and continued to work at his trade till he was 97 years of age. He was a temperate, regular-living man, and never had an hour's sickness in the whole course of his life. He used to dance regularly on New-Year's Days, along with some Highland friends, to the bagpipe. On New-Year's Day 1825, he danced a reel with the father, the son, the grandson, and great-grandson, and was in more than his usual spirits. His hearing was nothing impaired, and till within three weeks of his demise without glasses he could have threaded the finest needle with facility." This paragraph is quoted from an Edinburgh paper.

August 29 —“Bands of shearers who went from our Northern Division of the island to the South in search of employment, as for many years they have been wont to do for lack of sufficient work at home, are daily returning in the most wretched state of destitution. The influx of Irish into the South, who seem willing to work for the merest pittance, appears to have rendered the harvest labour a drug in the market. To keep life in the body, some of our poor country people report they would work for fourpence a day and their maintenance; but even this they could not obtain, and they are now begging their way home.”

September 5.—On Tuesday, 21st ult., the Rev. Roderick Macrae was admitted minister of the Government Church lately built at Shildaig, in the parish of Applecross, Presbytery of Lochcarron. Mr Macrae had laboured for upwards of 30 years in Torridon. The Dowager Mrs Mackenzie of Applecross presented a service of plate to the church in memory of her daughter. “This,” says the paragraph, “is the first settlement of a minister that has as yet taken place in any one of the Government churches in the Highlands.”

Ibid.—The issue contains the speech delivered in the House of Commons in 1782 by the Hon. Archibald Fraser of Lovat in seconding the motion of the Marquis of Montrose in favour of repealing the Act making it illegal to wear the Highland dress.

September 12.—Seven toll bars are reported as in course of erection, one on the Fort-George Road below the farm of Seafield, and the others between Castlehill and Dalwhinnie. This measure led to proposals, especially by the County of Sutherland, for the reopening of the old drove roads. Correspondence appears on the subject in our columns, and discussions took place at county meetings.

September 26.—Three young men who robbed a man of his pocket-book in Telford Street in July were tried at the Circuit Court, and were each sentenced to transportation for 14 years. A fourth man had escaped.

October 3.—John Frederick Lord Cawdor was created Viscount Emlyn and Earl Cawdor.

Ibid.—James Grant of Bught was elected Provost of Inverness.

Ibid.—The Northern Meeting was held in the last week of September, accompanied by the races at Duneacroby. No special feature is reported.

October 10.—Died, at Inverness, on the 27th ult., in the 68th year of her age, Mrs Anna-

bella Fraser, widow of Mr Alexander Fraser, late merchant in Inverness, after a few days' illness. No particulars of Mrs Fraser's life are given, but her character and good works are spoken of in such terms as to show that she occupied a place of importance in the town.

October 17.—James Fowler of Raddery elected Provost of Fortrose; Alexander Fraser of Inchcoulter, Provost of Dingwall; Right Hon. W. Dundas, Lord Register of Scotland, Provost of Tain.

October 31.—At the annual meeting of the Northern Institution there was submitted a letter to the Secretary from the late Right Hon. George Canning in return for a copy of the Prize Essay published by the Institution. The letter was holograph, and was written but shortly before Mr Canning was attacked by his fatal illness. It was dated 11th July.

November 7.—Intimation is made that the Rev. Mr Clark was to preach an English sermon every Sunday evening at 6 o'clock in the Gaelic Church. "The opportunity of public worship is hereby afforded to those who are not otherwise employed in religious exercises on the Lord's Day." The church had been fitted up with gas lights.

Ibid.—The new Episcopal Chapel at Fortrose was opened on the 1st inst. After the usual services an important sermon was preached by the Rev Charles Fyvie, Inverness.

November 14.—"Despatches were received at the Admiralty on Saturday last, announcing the total destruction on the 20th of October of the combined Turkish and Egyptian Fleets in the Harbour of Navarino, by the English, French, and Russian squadrons. Out of 70 ships of war, of which the Turkish Fleet consisted, only eight of the smaller vessels escaped."

Ibid.—"Owing to the vigilance of Captain Oliver, of the Revenue cutter Prince of Wales, and the new Excise officers on shore, smuggling is now so completely put down in the Long Island that there is actually not a drop of illicit whisky to be got from the Butt of Lewis to Barra Head; and there is probably at this moment a larger supply of legal whisky on its way from Greenock, for the supply of Stornoway alone, than was ever imported into the whole Hebrides before."

Ibid.—The issue contains a long and interesting account of a trip through the Reay country, in Sutherland. The writer describes Loch-Shin, Tongue, the moor called the Moin, Loch-Eriboll, and the Durness district. The Moin is described as "in many parts so boggy that

our horses frequently sunk beyond their knees." November 21.—In this number there is a notice of the first edition of Chambers's History of the '45. An extract is given of the account of the Rout of Moy, and a note appended to it says:—"Lady Drummair's House is the third below the Mason Lodge in Church Street. It is still a house of respectable appearance; but though remarkable as the best house in the town, and the only one containing a room in which there was not a bed, it is now but one of second-rate quality in this thriving and fast-improving town. The bedroom occupied by the Prince and Duke is at the back of the house, with a window commanding a view of the garden."

November 28.—Previous to this time there was no path to the Fall of Foyers. Lord Colchester, on his recent visit, suggested that an access should be formed, and left £5 with Mr Mitchell, C.E., as the beginning of a subscription for this purpose.

Ibid.—There is a long letter, with an introductory article, on the subject of the houses of the Highland peasantry. An uncomfortable picture is given of the black huts with the outlet for smoke in the roof, and the adjoining cow-house, stable, and barn. The writer of the letter estimates the population of an ordinary Highland parish at 2000, and says that three-fourths, or more commonly four-fifths, live in black huts. He thinks that there are 500 huts and 500 outhouses, making a total of 1000; and that the cost of erection is £12 a-piece, or £12,000 for the parish. Some of these houses, however, required repair every two or three years, and none could do without repair more than five years, "so that every five years they cost in repairing about half the original price of the building." The writer argued for the erection of a better class of house, rather more expensive (he puts the cost at £20!), but more durable and therefore more economical.

December 12.—"The British and Foreign Bible Society, in consequence of a representation made to them of the scarcity of Bibles in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, have requested the Inverness-shire Bible Society to take the most effectual measures for supplying the wants of the people, so far as it is practicable to ascertain them. For this end two thousand Gaelic Bibles and Testaments and English Scriptures to the value of £100 were voted on the 3rd inst. for cheap sale and gratuitous distribution, to be at the disposal of the Inverness-shire Society. These are given

as a first grant, with the express understanding that further and ample grants are to be expected so soon as these are disposed of."

Ibid.—The Earl of Moray presented the Rev. Mr Ferries, Avoch, to the Church of Edinkillie, vacant by the death of Rev. Mr Macfarlane, the previous incumbent.

December 19.—"The beneficial consequences of Lord Colchester's recent visit to the Highlands begin to manifest themselves. The heavy and impolitic dues on the Caledonian Canal which amounted almost to a prohibition of the use of that great and useful work have been reduced one-half. . . . The Highlands of Scotland owe much to the labours of this Nobleman. Not only the Canal, but the great lines of roads through the Northern Counties were executed by a Commission of which he was a leading and representative member, and his recent visit to this county was, we believe, undertaken with a view to consolidate and complete the great works of internal communication, both by land and water, to which his labours have been so long and so happily directed."

No. IV.

The administration of Lord Goderich, which has been aptly described as "the weakest administration of the century," came to an end at the close of 1827, and a new Government came into office at the beginning of 1828, with the Duke of Wellington as Prime Minister and Sir Robert Peel as Home Secretary. The Whig section, led by Huskisson, joined the reconstructed Ministry, but there was friction from the outset, and by-and-bye pronounced differences of opinion appeared. The session is memorable for the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, which removed the disabilities of Dissenters, and was a victory for the Whigs.

In April 1828 Mr Robert Carruthers came to Inverness as editor of the "Courier," and three years afterwards became proprietor. He conducted the paper with unrivalled distinction for the long period of fifty years. At the splendid banquet to which he was entertained in 1871, Dr Carruthers gave interesting reminiscences of his arrival in Inverness and of his early experiences.—

"I have a very vivid recollection," he said, "of my first journey in the Highlands, from Perth to Inverness, and of the interest and anxiety with which I watched from the top of the mail coach every turn of that wild, sinuous, picturesque road, which

'Winds with the vale and wins the long ascent.'

It was in spring of 1828, forty-three years and a-half since, and I had brought with me a letter received shortly before from our late townsman, Mr Roderick Reach, who was then, along with another valued friend, Provost Ferguson, a proprietor of the 'Courier.' The Reform Bill broke up that business connection, as it did many other connections, and in the year 1831 threw the paper entirely into my own hands, but it caused no estrangement or coldness on the part of my early and affectionate Inverness friends. Mr Reach afterwards removed to London, and became the prince of newspaper correspondents, in which capacity I was largely indebted to him. He was a man of a kind and generous nature, of very striking and varied talent."

Dr Carruthers mentioned the fact that the first editor of the paper was Mrs Johnstone, a lady who afterwards attained considerable

reputation as the author of several books and the editor of Tait's Magazine. She had left, however, about three years before Carruthers came, and in the interval the paper had been somewhat neglected. "To be local and to be useful" was the chief desire of the new editor, and the change was at once visible in the news columns. Dr Carruthers points out that a busy and stormy period as regards public affairs set in with the year 1828. "Indeed," he said, "1828 stands as a sort of isthmus between the old and the new systems of Government. The Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel were in office; Lord Eldon still clung to the Great Seal. But Ministers looked one way and rowed another. They had adopted Lord John Russell's resolution for repealing the Test and Corporation Acts, thus freeing the Dissenters from the nominal restriction or stigma which degraded them." It was the new editor's first duty to chronicle the second reading of the bill, and it gave him great satisfaction to congratulate the country on the conduct of the Premier and the Government. He mentions in his speech some of the taxes on knowledge which then existed. "The newspaper of 1828 was a small, meagre sheet, price sevenpence, burdened with a paper duty of threepence per pound weight, a stamp duty of fourpence on every sheet, and a duty of three shillings and sixpence on every advertisement. In 1828 we had just three newspapers north of Aberdeen—two in Inverness and one in Elgin, then recently established." The last mentioned was the "Elgin Courier," conducted by Mr James Grant, afterwards editor of the "Morning Advertiser."

The dissensions in the Duke of Wellington's Cabinet came to a head in May. "The Ministry," says Mr Spencer Walpole, "had not lasted for half-a-year, but it had been rent during the whole period by internal divisions. The members of it held radically different views on almost every question which came before them. They could not agree upon foreign policy; they could not agree upon the corn-laws; they could not agree about Reform; they only abstained from quarrelling on the Roman Catholic question because they had agreed from the first to differ upon it." The first rupture occurred on the Corn Bill, but it was patched up, although Charles Grant was with difficulty prevented from re-

signing. Then came a dispute about the disfranchisement of the borough of East Retford, which returned two members, and had been proved to be corrupt. On the question whether the two seats should be transferred to the adjacent hundred or given to the town of Birmingham, Peel supported the enfranchisement of the hundred and Huskisson voted against it. On going home, Huskisson wrote a hasty letter to the Duke of Wellington, giving him the opportunity of "placing my office in other hands," and the Duke, wearied with dissensions, treated this as a resignation, and accepted it. The retirement of Huskisson was followed by that of Palmerston, Grant, Dudley, and Lamb. "Grant, brilliant but irresolute, had with difficulty been dissuaded from resigning in March. There was no difficulty in persuading him to resign in May."

Among the new appointments was that of Vesey Fitzgerald, the member for Clare, as President of the Board of Trade. The appointment vacated the seat, and Daniel O'Connell contested it with him, and was triumphantly returned. The question of Catholic Emancipation was thus brought to a crisis. During the rest of the year there was violent agitation in Ireland, which by-and-bye spread to other parts of the kingdom. Peel and the Duke were forced to consider the situation afresh, and at the opening of Parliament in 1829 they accepted the necessity, and announced that they were to bring in a bill for Catholic Emancipation.

From the "Inverness Courier."

1828.

January 2.—The report of a meeting of the Northern Institution says:—"A very novel kind of a donation was presented at this meeting, being no other than a live alligator from John Fraser, Esq., merchant, Charlestown, Carolina, a native of Inverness. The animal was but young, and his confinement appears to have rendered him comparatively tame." One would like to know what became of that alligator. It was an uncanny gift for a Scientific Society.

January 23 and 30.—The first date is absent from the file. It contained an account of the death of Macdonell of Glengarry, who was killed on the 14th of January, when he jumped ashore from the wrecked steamer "Stirling Castle" at Corran, near Fort-William. In the issue of

the 30th there are spirited verses which describe him as "like his own mountain torrent, impetuous and proud," and proceed—

"Noble his form was and lordly his bearing,
Well suited the tartan and heather his wear-
ing,
And ne'er did the erne his dark plumage
bestow,
To nod o'er a statelier, manlier brow."

Glengarry was the last Highland Chief who adhered to the style of living of his ancestors, and went about with a full retinue of kilted attendants, who went by the name of "Glengarry's tail." The historians of the Clan Donald admit that he had grave faults of character which often led him into serious scrapes; but they also dwell on his noble qualities. "Many of his faults were traceable to his having been left, like Byron, without a strong guiding hand in youth, lacking the discipline so greatly needed by a nature so intense and volcanic as his. On the other hand, his virtues were all his own. He was kind-hearted and generous, and dispensed a noble hospitality, so that one of the gentlemen of his own Clan has truly placed on record that Glengarry had the heart of a prince." His lavish expenditure embarrassed his estates, and ultimately led to their being sold. Scott is supposed to have drawn many of the features of Fergus M'Ivor from the character of Glengarry, whom he knew well.

January 30.—"Died at Nessbank, Inverness, on the 23rd inst., after a short and severe illness, in the 67th year of his age, Captain Robert Sutherland of Nessbank, formerly of the 72nd Regiment of Foot." The paper devotes an article of some length to Captain Sutherland, who was evidently a man of humour, talent, and sterling character, as well as of varied experience. "He had spent his early life in India, and had seen much of the world, its manners and customs. He had turned these opportunities to good account; he had observed and read much, but had reflected more. His home had long been on the 'tented field and stormy sea,' and he inclined occasionally to relate anecdotes of the times when Cornwallis directed the energies of British soldiers on the plains of Hindostan and Hughes battled on the wave. To these anecdotes he could impart that interest which arises from clear recollection and lucid arrangement of the facts."

Ibid.—There is an article on eminent living persons of the name of Grant. They make a dis-

tinguished roll. There were eight living persons of the name who were then, or had been, members of the House of Commons.

February 6.—The remains of Glengarry were interred on the 1st inst. There was a large gathering. About 150 gentlemen sat down to dinner at noon in a room in the Square of Glengarry, and the other attendants, numbering about 1500, were plentifully supplied with bread, cheese, and whisky. The procession commenced about two o'clock afternoon, and reached Kilfinnan, the place of interment, distant about five miles from Invergarry, between four and five o'clock. The body, enclosed in a double coffin, lead and wood, was borne breast-high by [the number is indistinct] Highlanders, who were relieved at regular intervals. The day was uncommonly tempestuous; and the procession had to pass through a swollen burn, reaching above the knees of the people in the procession. The whole ceremony was over by five o'clock in the afternoon. The chief mourner was the young Chief of Glengarry, the only surviving son of the late Mac Mhic Alister. Young Glengarry was dressed in the full Highland garb of his ancestors, with an eagle's feather in his bonnet, covered with crape. He was supported by his maternal uncle, Lord Medwyn, and his paternal uncle, Colonel Macdonell, of the Guards. Some hundreds of the people were arrayed in the Highland garb; the mournful pibroch was wailed forth by the pipers; and none of the formalities usually attendant on the obsequies of a great chief were omitted; at least none that were fitted to give a character of impressiveness to the solemnity. By the judicious arrangements made, those scenes of drunkenness and quarrelling which in former days, and, we are ashamed to add, in more recent times, have disgraced similar occasions in the Highlands were prevented. The whole was conducted with the utmost order, decorum, and solemnity, suited to the mournfulness of the occasion and the better sense of propriety which begins to prevail in the Highlands." Colonel Macdonell, mentioned above, the brother of Glengarry, was the hero of Hougomont at the battle of Waterloo.

March 5.—On the 23rd ult. there was the formality of a county election, on the acceptance by the Right Hon. Charles Grant of the offices of President of the Board of Trade and Treasurer of the Navy. Mr Grant was re-elected without opposition. The motion for his return was made by Colonel Macdonell, of

the Guards, and seconded by Mackintosh of Mackintosh. Mr Charles Grant was not himself present, but was represented by his brother, William Thomas Grant, who presided at the usual dinner given by the newly-elected member.

March 12.—“Our Jail at present contains no less than twenty offenders against the Excise laws, fined in penalties from £6 to £20. Four of these poor people are women; one of them 70 years old.”

Ibid.—The following paragraph is quoted from a book of tours in Scotland by Robert Chambers:—“Cromarty is one of the neatest, cleanest, prettiest towns of the size in Scotland. It is not a Royal burgh, though the chief town in the vagrant, incomprehensible county to which it gives a name. It lies upon a promontory jutting into the Firth, and the ground being slightly elevated, it has the advantage of a dry as well as a pleasant situation. Most of the houses are whitewashed, owing to the generosity of a candidate for the representation of the county in Parliament, who, anxious to gather golden opinions from all sorts of men, offered thus to adorn the house of any person who so desired; the consequence of which has been that Cromarty came cleaner out of the election business of 1826 than perhaps any other town in his Majesty's dominions.”

March 6.—A quotation from a paper which publishes “Parliamentary Portraits” describes the member for the County of Inverness. The writer speaks of his knowledge not only of the great interests of the country, but of minor details, and proceeds—“Mr Grant's views are altogether liberal and enlarged; and he is fully impressed with the truth of those theories of Mr Huskisson of which the country is beginning to reap the benefit. Independently of this office knowledge—perhaps the most important for Mr Grant's province—as a speaker he has very high pretensions. Indeed, with the exception of Tierney, Brougham, and Mackintosh, perhaps Mr Grant is one of the most eloquent men in the Lower House. To great enthusiasm of mind he joins much fervency and impressiveness of manner; and his language is strong, nervous, sustained, and in a high degree oratorical. Ill-health, however, joined to constitutional indolence or timidity, or perhaps that deep religious feeling with which he is imbued, have prevented Mr Grant from taking the active part in debate for which his talents, his station, his knowledge, and experience so admirably fit him. This is lamented by his

friends, as well as the country, who are the chief losers by his silence."

March 26.—Sir Alan Cameron, K.C.B., Lieut.-General, who largely by his personal influence raised the 79th or Cameron Highlanders, died at Fulham, Middlesex, on 9th March. A sketch of his active career is given in this issue. The closing sentences are pathetic:—"A great sufferer in body from severe infirmities, contracted by continued exposures and fatigues in service, Sir Alan nevertheless lived to an advanced age. But he was doomed to see his family drop around him—his youngest son, when his aide-de-camp, early in the Peninsular campaign from privations and fatigues; his eldest when gallantly leading on the immediate advance of the British at Fuentes d'Onor, his nephew and his orphan grandson, both of whom perished from the baneful effects of West Indian service. His nephew was the officer who, holding only the rank of lieutenant, bravely led on the Cameron Highlanders at the battle of Waterloo, when all his superior officers had been either killed or wounded. Of his own immediate kindred, Sir Alan has left only one son, Lieut.-Colonel Cameron, who until the close of the war, when the corps was disbanded, commanded the Second Battalion of the Cameron Highlanders, and who followed to the grave the worn-out remains of his aged and veteran parent."

April 2.—A paragraph on shipbuilding at Inverness says that it was only within a few years that this branch of industry had been carried on to any extent at the port. "Of late, however, several fine vessels have been built here; one of them, the *Caledonia*, now in the London and Inverness trade, was much admired for the beauty of her model and the excellence of her workmanship. She was built by Mr Munro. We learn that another fine smack, intended for the Inverness and Leith trade, will be launched from his yard in the course of a few days. He has also a brig and schooner on the stocks pretty far advanced, so that we shall have the pleasure of witnessing not less than three launches from his yard within a very short time of each other."

April 16.—Macleod of Macleod was elected M.P. for the Burgh of Sudbury, in Suffolk. His opponent, the unsuccessful candidate, was John Abel Smith, of the banking firm of Smith, Payne, & Smith.

April 20.—This issue bears the imprint—"Printed by R. Carruthers for the Proprietors."

Ibid.—An article appears on the state of the poor

in Inverness, the facts being derived from a report drawn up by a Committee of the Society for the Suppression of Begging. The annual produce of the Kirk-Session funds (including £100 from collections at church doors) amounted to £367. The Society just mentioned seems to have been disappointed in its work. The Sub-Committee agreed in condemning all public and systematic support of the poor, excepting that of Kirk-Sessions, and recommending the ancient gratuitous system, whose ostensible resources are the Kirk-Session funds and occasional collections. They had taken this idea from the success of Dr Chalmers's work in Glasgow, but the Editor pointed out that this success was due to the personal influence of the great preacher and organiser.

April 30.—At a meeting of the Northern Institution there was read a memoir of the late Duke of Gordon, the first President of the Society, prepared by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder. "His Grace's attainments and practical acquaintance with almost every branch of science, and especially mechanical philosophy, and the encouragement he bestowed on every institution designed for the improvement of this country, are generally known and appreciated, and were done ample justice to in this memoir." It is stated that not the least interesting part of the memoir was a sketch of his Grace's secretary and librarian, Mr James Hoy, who was an inmate of Gordon Castle for 46 years. He was a native of Selkirkshire. Mr Hoy was a devoted student of astronomy, entomology, and botany. He was quite indifferent either to fame or riches. "When his kind and indulgent patron voluntarily offered him an addition to his sixty pound salary, he replied—'Keep it to yourself, my Lord Duke, I'm no needin' mair; ye hae as muckle need o't as I hae.'" Hoy was a Seceder, and every Sunday, wet or dry, rode into Elgin to attend the Seceder Chapel. He left orders in his will that his remains should be interred in the Church-yard of the Cathedral, "near his auld frien' Mr Duncan, the Seceder minister," to whom he had listened for so many years.

Ibid.—There are long and interesting extracts from the report of the Commissioners on Roads and Bridges, prepared apparently by Mr Joseph Mitchell, C.E. It is stated that during the summer no fewer than seven different stage coaches passed daily to and from Inverness. Three of these, including the mail, ran between Inverness and Aberdeen; one between Inverness and Perth along the Highland Road; two

between Inverness and Dingwall, Invergordon, Cromarty, and Tain; and the mail coach along the Northern Coast road from Inverness to Wick and Thurso. Previous to 1800 there was no public coach in the Highlands. In that year an attempt was made to establish coaches between Inverness and Perth and Inverness and Aberdeen, but at that time they had to be discontinued. As to steam communication, the report says that the previous year "three steam-boats plied regularly for the conveyance of passengers along the Caledonian Canal, and five others from Glasgow along the West Coast, and to the different islands of Skye, Mull, Islay, &c., as well as one occasionally from Leith along the East Coast to Inverness."

May 7.—"The Test and Corporation Acts are at length repealed. On Monday se'enight the bill was read a third time and passed without a division. The conduct of the Duke of Wellington on this occasion reflects upon him the highest honour, and will, we doubt not, be properly appreciated by the nation."

Ibid.—At a public meeting in Inverness it was resolved that the ministers and elders should have the entire management of the poor, "including the Kirk-Session fund and the Soup Kitchen Society."

Ibid.—At a meeting of Commissioners of Supply at Tain, Mr Mackenzie of Kilcoy was appointed Convener of the County.

May 14.—"There are no less than six natives and proprietors of Inverness-shire members of the House of Commons at the present time, viz., the Right Hon. C. Grant, returned for the County of Inverness; the Hon. Colonel Grant, for the county of Moray; Colonel Baillie of Leys, for Hedon; John Stewart, Esq. of Belladrum, for Beverley; Macleod of Macleod, for Sudbury; Sir James Mackintosh, for Knareborough; and Robert Grant, Esq. of Dromore, for the Inverness Burghs."

May 21.—Mr Thomas Gilzean of Bunaghton had resigned the office of Sheriff-Substitute of the County of Inverness, and Mr John Edwards, solicitor in Inverness, was appointed his successor. "Mr Gilzean was, we believe, the oldest Sheriff-Substitute in Scotland; he was appointed in the year 1785, and during the long period of 43 years he has been the Chief Magistrate resident in this quarter. . . . Mr Gilzean was an active, able, and upright judge, devoting his whole time and mind to the discharge of the important duties with which he was entrusted. Business was to him both a duty and a recreation,"

Ibid.—The Church Courts of Ross-shire had before them at this time the case of the Parish of Kiltearn. There were differences of long standing between the minister and his parishioners. The church, it is reported, was utterly forsaken by the people, and there were no less than forty children in the parish who had not been baptised.

May 28.—“Several gentlemen of Inverness and its vicinity have long entertained a wish that bridges should be erected over the River Ness at the western extremity of the town, in order to open up the Island to the public and to connect the walks on the opposite banks of the river. The Island is upwards of four acres in extent, and is unquestionably the most beautiful spot in the environs of Inverness. It is now, however, inaccessible to the public, and the individuals with whom the proposed improvement originated conceive that to form an easy access to the Island by means of chain tension bridges, and to lay it out in graceful and varied walks, would at once form a lasting ornament to the town, a powerful attraction to strangers, and a source of healthful recreation and enjoyment to the inhabitants.” This is the first paragraph in an advertisement, and a list of subscriptions follows, amounting to £458. The Duke of Gordon gave £30, and Mr Charles Grant, M.P.; Mr Robert Grant, M.P.; and Mr David Inglis, Marden Park, London, gave 50 guineas each. Provost Grant, Mr John Ross of Berbice, and Mr John Ross, agent for the British Linen Company's Bank, each gave 10 guineas. A paragraph states that there were well-frequented walks on each side of the river as far as the Island (the spelling is still in the singular number, though it subsequently appears that then, as now, there were two islands), but hitherto there had been no bridges.

Ibid.—There is an interesting article, evidently written by the new editor, on the Highland peasantry and smuggling. It states that smuggling had of late years diminished, though in some parishes it had increased. “Thus in the Black Isle, which formerly literally swarmed with smugglers, there is scarcely one left, whereas in the district of Strathgass they have increased prodigiously.” The writer calculates that after paying cost of materials, the smuggler made only from ten to twelve shillings to cover time, labour, fuel, and the wear and tear of his distilling apparatus. “Yet in spite of repeated seizures, fines, and imprisonment, he clings to the illicit traffic with astonishing per-

tinacity. There are now in the Jail of Inverness two men convicted of smuggling, and imprisoned for non-payment of their fines, whose wives have since been detected in committing the same offence."

June 4.—The political news of the day is the split in the Government. There was special interest in the matter in the Highlands, as Charles Grant had resigned the office of President of the Board of Trade.

Ibid.—At the meeting of the General Assembly there was a report on the state of education in the Highlands and Islands submitted by Principal Baird. Within the two previous years 70 schools had been established, and 5670 children were being educated from the funds of the Assembly. Dr Baird and Dr Norman Macleod of Campsie had made a tour of inspection throughout the Highlands, travelling upwards of 1600 miles, and spending two months on the journey. The great body of heritors deserved much praise for their liberality in support of the schools. An Association had also been formed "for the education of the female youth of the Highlands."

June 11.—"We learn from good authority that James Dick, Esq., late a merchant of London, who during his lifetime made various donations to the poor of Morayshire, his native county, has bequeathed the sum of £130,000 to form a fund for the purpose of giving an additional salary of £50 each to every parish schoolmaster in the counties of Moray, Banff, and Aberdeen. Mr Dick, the testator, was a native of the town of Forres, of humble parentage. He laid the foundation of his fortune in the West Indies, and increased it by commercial industry and enterprise in the English Metropolis, where he died about ten days ago at the advanced age of eighty-five." A lawsuit on the subject was threatened by the next-of-kin.

Ibid.—Great interest was excited about this time by a course of scientific lectures delivered in connection with the Northern Institution by Mr William Nicol, a lecturer from Edinburgh. The series was attended by large audiences.—The Northern Missionary Society held its annual meeting at Inverness. The collections amounted to £54 1s 6d, and the subscriptions and contributions to £23 3s 7d.

June 18.—There is an article on the debate in the House of Lords on the subject of Catholic Emancipation. The motion in favour of Catholic claims was moved by the Marquis of Lansdowne, but was rejected by a majority of 45. The "Courier" supported Emancipation.

Ibid.—The retired Sheriff-Substitute, Mr Thomas

Gilzean, was entertained by the Inverness solicitors to dinner in the Caledonian Hotel, and presented with a piece of plate as a memorial of his public services. There is a long list of toasts. Mr Reach proposed "the memory of the most distinguished individual Inverness, or perhaps Scotland, ever produced, Duncan Forbes of Culloden, Lord President of the Court of Session."

Ibid.—The Rev. Charles Mackintosh was appointed assistant and successor to his father, the venerable minister of Tain.

June 25.—The Sheep and Wool Market was held on the previous week. Cheviot widders fetched from 18s to £1 7s 6d; Cheviot ewes from 12s to 15s; Cheviot lambs from 7s to 8s 3d; blackfaced widders from 15s to 18s; blackfaced ewes from 8s to 11d; blackfaced lambs from 5s to 7s 6d. Cheviot wool, 8s to 9s 6d per single stone; blackfaced wool from 11s to 12s per double stone. The price of wool was depressed from several causes, one of which was a new American tariff. There was a meeting to discuss a proposal for postponing the date of the market. Considerable opposition was manifested, and the proposal was for the time departed from.

July 2.—"A rare and beautiful relic of the olden time has just been presented to the Museum of the Northern Institution by William Mackintosh, Esq. of Millbank, an ancient virginal, the favourite musical instrument with keys, which was in use among our ancestors prior to the invention of the spinet and harpsichord. This virginal formerly belonged to a noble family in this neighbourhood, and is considered to be almost the only one remaining in Scotland. It is made of oak, inlaid with cedar, and richly ornamented with gold. The cover and sides are beautifully painted with figures of birds, flowers, and leaves, the colours of which are comparatively fresh and undecayed. On one part of the lid is a grand procession of warriors, whom a bevy of fair dames are propitiating by presents or offerings of wine and fruits."

Ibid.—In Captain Franklin's narrative of his second expedition to the shores of the Polar Sea, frequent mention is made of one of the crew, Gustavus Aird, who lost his life in attempting to pass a cataract. The young man was a native of Ross-shire, brother of Mr Walter Aird, schoolmaster of Balintore, near Tain. The boat, of which he happened at the moment to be the sole occupant, was carried over Pelican Fall, on the Stove River, 28th June 1827. The young man was 26 years of age.

July 16.—The election of Daniel O'Connell for the County of Clare is recorded. "He may be said to have been borne into Parliament on the shoulders of the forty shilling freeholders." The final result of this election was the concession of Catholic Emancipation.

Ibid.—"In consequence of the want of employment, arising from a redundancy of population and other causes, hundreds of our poorer countrymen on the Western Coast are now quitting their native shores for North America. A brig went off lately from the Isle of Harris freighted with passengers for Upper Canada, and on the 4th inst. two vessels sailed from Lochmaddy, in North Uist, with no less than 600 souls on board. Another is daily expected to sail from Canna." It was added that fresh exportations were to follow as soon as opportunities occurred. The increase of population, the low price of wool, and the destruction of the kelp trade by the introduction of barilla, are given as the causes of distress in the Western Islands. The blow to the kelp trade had been most disastrous. "Several Highland proprietors who were formerly possessed of large revenues are now very much embarrassed, and many thousands of individuals, male and female, who had ample employment in the manufacturing of kelp, have been reduced to the greatest indigence." In the Long Island alone from four to five thousand persons had been employed in the manufacture of kelp. In Skye the labourers had been principally employed in the making of roads and bridges; but a proportion had also been engaged in the manufacture of kelp, both within the island and on the opposite shore. "Since the roads and bridges have been completed, both the late Lord Macdonald and the present have, in order to afford employment for their numerous dependents, chalked out work for them on the estate, without any reference to future emolument or remuneration. In this way we believe above £15,000 have been expended in the mere article of labour, but of course it will be necessary to assign a limit to the exertions of individual benevolence." The writer expresses sorrow that circumstances of State policy or national misfortune should ever compel the people to leave the shores to which they were so strongly attached.

Ibid.—At the last general meeting of the Highland Society of Scotland the Marquis of Stafford proposed that a general show of live stock should be held at Inverness in 1831. The proposal was referred to a Committee, which reported favourably upon it.

Ibid.—At a meeting of the Inverness Gas and Water Company a dividend of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was declared. The Company resolved to proceed with the introduction of a supply of water into the town. The cost was estimated at £4000.

July 23.—The revenue of the Burgh of Inverness for the previous year is given at £2295. The Common Good is entered at £1118 10s. There was a surplus of revenue over expenditure amounting to £623 5s.

July 30.—The late Mr Grant, minister of Cawdor, whose death had been recently recorded, was among the survivors of those who had conversed with Dr Johnson during his tour in 1773. Mr Grant was at that time minister of Daviot, but he saw Dr Johnson at Cawdor, and afterwards supped with him at the Inn at Inverness. It was on the latter occasion that Johnson described "an extraordinary animal called the Kangaroo," which had recently been discovered in New South Wales, and imitated the animal by putting out his hands as feelers, gathering up the skirts of his huge brown coat, and making two or three vigorous bounds across the room!

August 13.—"On Tuesday, the 5th inst., a woman named Jean Miller died at Moy, at the advanced age of 100. She had been thirty years in the family of the late Sir Aeneas Mackintosh of Mackintosh, and in the course of her long and faithful services had nursed the family of the late Sir Ludovick Grant, father of Lady Mackintosh. The old woman retained the entire use of her faculties almost to the last, and her general health continued unimpaired till within the last five or six years, when an accidental fall down stairs dislocated one of her limbs, and tended to debilitate her frame. She remembered distinctly the Forty-five, and used to tell of having seen the young Chevalier, and also witnessed one day, during the progress of the Royal forces, three men hung up on a tree at Moy for some offence. The latter days of the aged nurse were spent in peace and comfort. She was supported solely by the bounty of Lady Mackintosh, who assigned her a room in Moy House, and provided her, as the old woman herself used to say, 'with everything that her heart could desire.'"

Ibid.—"Hundreds of Highland peasants, male and female, are now migrating to the South for employment during the harvest. On Monday we met about 150 near Moy, journeying in parties according to their respective districts, and each accompanied by a piper. The greater part were from Sutherlandshire and the Black Isle, in Ross-shire. The sound of the bagpipe

seemed to give a tone of gaiety to the scene, but there was after all more of sorrow than of merriment in the strain."

September 3.—The Northern Missionary Society met at Tain. Contributions and donations amounted to £88 7s 7d. A letter was read regarding the Sutherland settlers in North America, whereupon the Society voted a grant of £30 to the Glasgow Society for promoting the religious interests of Scottish settlers in British North America, with a recommendation that not less than £5 be spent in supplying settlers in Prince Edward's Island with books in the English or Gaelic language.

September 10.—A public dinner was given in the Caledonian Hotel to the Right Hon. Charles Grant, M.P., as a mark of respect for his public and private character. Provost Grant was in the chair, and the croupiers were Sheriff Fraser-Tytler, Convener of the County, and Mr J. M. Grant of Glenmoriston. The room was filled to overflowing, many having travelled from thirty to fifty miles to be present at the dinner. The Chairman proposed the health of their guest, and Sheriff Fraser-Tytler gave the same toast in another form, "Mr Grant and Freedom of Trade." Mr Grant, in reply, spoke eloquently of the soundness of the commercial principles of Mr Huskisson.

September 17.—Rev. Dr Andrew Thomson visited Inverness and addressed a large meeting on the Apocrypha controversy. There is a sketch of Dr Thomson's appearance and methods. In person he was "stout, manly, and robust," with a firm, clear voice. The chief characteristic of his mind was strength, not elegance. "In preaching he is a strict mathematical reasoner. His conclusions flow as naturally from the premises as water does from the fountain." The meeting is reported at a length of several columns. Dr Thomson was strongly opposed to the circulation, in any circumstances, of the Apocrypha with the Scriptures. The Inverness Auxiliary concurred in his opinions, but did not wish to break altogether with the British and Foreign Bible Society. They resolved for the ensuing year to apply their funds for the benefit of the Highlands exclusively.

September 24.—James Grant of Bught re-elected Provost of Inverness.

September 24.—"On the estate of Dochfour, near Inverness, there lives an old man named Donald M'Culloch—a relic of the fatal field of Cul-loden. Donald is now in his 98th year, and is tolerably hale and healthy, but is miserably poor. In the Forty-five he lived in the Leys, and on the memorable 16th of April 1746, ac-

accompanied by a cousin, attached to the rebel army, and some other lads, went to the field of battle. He describes the day as one of mist, storm, and extreme cold. His relation was wounded, and he himself and his companions fled from the moor to avoid the murderous weapons of the dragoons. The Dunmagglass men were stationed near him, and truly graphic is his narration of the arrival of the fugitives at a neighbouring burn—some falling headlong, never to rise again, and others quenching their thirst in long and heavy draughts.

October 1.—“A monument is about to be erected to the celebrated Gaelic poet, Rob Donn, in the church-yard of his native parish Durness, among what Sir Walter Scott calls ‘the immeasurable wilds of Reay,’ in Sutherlandshire. The scheme has originated with some of the bard’s admirers in that district, and the structure, we understand, will be a handsome one.”

Ibid.—The Northern Meeting was held the previous week. The attendance was smaller than usual. The races continued to be held.

October 8.—“A new lighthouse is in course of erection at Cape Wrath, and will be finished and lighted by December next. It is about fifty feet high, and is built on the summit of the Cape.”

Ibid.—There is a long report of the case of a schoolmaster at Kirkhill, who was charged before the Presbytery with various offences. The case had dragged on for two years and a-half. The Presbytery at length decided against the schoolmaster by a majority of one vote. The case was expected to be carried to the Court of Session. It created a great deal of keen feeling and newspaper correspondence.

October 15.—The death is announced of Sir Ewen Cameron of Fassifern at the advanced age of ninety. Sir Ewen obtained his baronetcy in consequence of the gallant conduct of his son, “the valiant Fassifern,” who fell at the head of the 92nd on the field of Quatre Bras.

October 22.—The Gaelic Dictionary, prepared under the direction of the Highland Society of Scotland, was now published. It was in two large quarto volumes.

Ibid.—A twelvemonth before, Sir John Riddell, proprietor of Strontian, in Argyllshire, established a manufactory of straw hats, as a means of improving the condition of the people on his estate. The venture was successful, and was extended to the preparation of ladies’ bonnets and the substratum of gentlemen’s silk hats. The male population of Strontian were engaged in working lead mines in the neighbourhood.

October 29.—The members of the Forres Trafalgar Club held their anniversary dinner in the Forres New Assembly Rooms on the 21st inst. Mr Grant of Kincorth was in the chair, and Mr Macleod of Dalvey croupier. There was also an outside gathering, at which copious libations of porter were served round a blazing bonfire.

Ibid.—The Magistrates of Inverness met to consider a petition from the bakers, craving an increase in the price of bread, which they stated was necessary in consequence of the advance of flour. The following assize was fixed to commence on Friday following:—The quartern loaf of fine bread weighing 4 lbs. 5½ ounces, 10d; ditto of second flour, 8d. Smaller bread in the same proportion.

November 5.—An article is quoted from the "Quarterly Journal of Agriculture" on the origin and cause of smuggling in the Highlands, written by General Stewart of Garth. It states that previous to the year 1793 smuggling was not practised except by a few individuals. The practice, he says, grew up owing to the increased cultivation of the land, the depopulation of the higher glens, and the production of surplus grain for which there was no adequate market.

November 12.—The remains of Sir Ewen Cameron of Fassifern were interred in the family burying-ground at Corpach, Kilmallie, close by the side of his gallant son. The funeral was attended by no less than 3000 persons. The issue gives the inscription on the monument erected to the memory of Colonel Cameron.

November 19.—A bill had been introduced into Parliament for the purpose of providing at least one secure gaol in each county, to be called "The County Gaol." The provisions of the bill were regarded as burdensome for the burghs.

November 26.—The Rev. Alexander Fraser was on Thursday, the 20th inst., ordained and admitted minister of Cawdor.

December 3.—A movement was set on foot for the establishment of a Mechanics' Institute.

December 10.—The Inn on the north side of Kessock was opened. Sir William Fettes, who was then proprietor of Redcastle estate, had carried out a good many improvements. New and commodious piers had been built at the Ferry, and a steam ferry-boat placed on the passage.

December 24.—"On Sunday last the Hon. Mrs Fraser, wife of T. A. Fraser, Esq. of Lovat, was safely delivered of a son and heir. This conspicuous event was hailed with acclamation

by all the tenantry on the extensive estate of Lovat, and bonfires were blazing in all directions from Inchberry along the whole surrounding country." The next issue gives a fuller account of these rejoicings. The heir thus welcomed was the late Lord Lovat.

Ibid.—The seventh anniversary meeting of the Forres Bible Society was held—Sir Thomas Dick Lauder in the chair. The Apocrypha controversy was the main subject, and there is a long report of the proceedings. The Society, which included the parish minister and two Secession ministers, adhered to the British and Foreign Bible Society. Mr Robert Grant, M.P., was one of the speakers at the meeting.

December 31.—The Burke and Hare murders in Edinburgh had recently horrified the world. There is a report of the trial of Burke and his accomplice, Helen Macdougall, in this issue.

Ibid.—Mr Morrison, bookseller, Inverness, presented to the Northern Institution a large bronze spear head, which had been recently found within the circle of upright stones at Kinchyle, on the road to Dores. "It is," says the report, "one of the largest we have ever seen, being upwards of a foot in length, and forms an important addition to the interesting series of ancient weapons already in the Museum."

No. V.

The year 1829 is memorable for the passing of the Catholic Emancipation Act. The necessity for the measure was forced on the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel by the condition of Ireland. The Whigs had long supported the proposal, but it fell to a Tory Government to carry it into effect. The only choice was between Emancipation and Civil War, and Peel, supported by Wellington, wisely resolved to give way. There is little doubt, however, that the Act was unpopular among the masses both in England and Scotland.

A reference in the Notes to Captain Godsman gives us an opportunity to quote the following passage from the late Dr Fraser-Mackintosh's *Letters of Two Centuries*:—

"In the year 1759 the old 89th Highlanders was raised, under the influence of the family of Gordon, one of the lieutenants being Alexander Godsman, a native of Banffshire. The greater part of the short time the regiment was embodied (for it was reduced in 1765) was spent in India. After being reduced, Lieutenant, commonly called Captain Godsman, was appointed factor or local representative for the Castle lands by the Duke of Gordon. At the date of the letter, Godsman was living at Dochfour, but he afterwards removed to Crofterton of Altnaskiah, and farmed part of the Haugh lands, belonging to the Duke. In a picture of the old house of Drummond and surroundings, dated 1796, it is seen that there was not a single tree on the Haugh and Altnaskiah lands, east of the burn. Captain Godsman's house stood on Crofterton—a narrow strip on the south side of the Old Edinburgh Road as it starts off from what is now called the Culduthel Road. After his indoor work was over, and his early dinner, Godsman invariably at the same hour—wet or dry—walked along the edge of the Haugh slopes as far as the descent to the burn, not only that he might see how things were getting on, but to enjoy his 'constitutional' and the magnificent views all around. He was somewhat bent, and walked with his hands behind his back. Hence the place got, and will now ever retain, the name of 'Godsman's Walk.' When Provost Phineas Mackintosh built the old house of Drum-

mond, he and his visitors frequently took the Godsmen's Walk as a short cut, the Altnaskiah lands being open and in part muir, until Provost Robertson feued Altnaskiah from Cantray, who had succeeded the Duke of Gordon in the Haugh lands."

Hugh Miller and Robert Carruthers seem to have become acquainted in 1828, the year in which the latter came to Inverness. They were not far apart in age, Carruthers having been born in 1799, Miller in 1802. In his *Schools and Schoolmasters* Miller relates how they came together; how he sent an Ode to the Ness to the *Courier*, which the Editor did not publish; and how he then resolved to appeal to the public on his own account in a small volume. He selected some fifteen or twenty pieces in verse, written chiefly during the preceding six years, and put them into the hands of the printer of the *Courier*. "It would have been a greatly wiser act," says Miller, "as I soon came to see had I put them into the fire instead; but my choice of a printing-office secured me at least one advantage—it brought me acquainted with one of the ablest and most accomplished of Scottish editors." The friendship thus formed remained unbroken until Miller's death. The *Poems by a Journeyman Mason* were published in June 1829, and in the end of July Miller's *Letters on the Herring Fishery* began to appear. "My *Letters*," says Miller, "attracted attention and were republished in my behalf by the proprietors of the paper, 'in consequence,' said my friend the editor, in a note which he kindly attached to the pamphlet which they formed, 'of the interest they had excited in the northern counties.'" Sir Walter Scott endeavoured to procure a copy after the limited impression was exhausted. The *Letters* now form part of the volume entitled "*Tales and Sketches*." Many years after they first appeared Dr Carruthers, speaking of the early correspondents of the paper said—"One of these, the greatest of all, was that remarkable man who, as Burns said of one of his friends, 'held the patent for his honours immediately from Almighty God'—I mean Hugh Miller. When Miller sent me his *Letters on the Herring Fishery* I saw that a great prose writer had arisen in the land and that the land would soon be filled with his fame." It will be interesting to many readers to find below contemporary references to Hugh Miller's first volume.

From the "Inverness Courier."

1829.

January 14.—There is a gossip article on the witch stones at Forres and the blasted heath near Inshoch, supposed to be the legendary meeting-place of Macbeth and the witches. The Cluny hills at Forres had been twice planted, and the plantation each time destroyed by fire, and wise folks shook their heads, remembering the curses denounced by the witches who were executed there. "Notwithstanding these startling occurrences, a gentleman lately attempted to break one of the Witch Stones to furnish materials for building, but the whole neighbourhood rose en masse and insisted on the stone being replaced in its ancient site, where it still remains, bound with iron bars or clamps. A still stronger instance, however, of obduracy and hardihood remains to be related. The lairds have actually resolved to divide, cultivate, and plant the identical blasted heath! This has raised a strong outcry among the peasants for more reasons than one. The moor has from time immemorial been used as a common, and was familiarly held to be 'no man's land.' The lawyers are, therefore, they say, worse than the witches, for the latter always secured to them a range of 'good outshot pasture.' But hopes are still entertained that the weird sisters will protect their own wild domain and assert their ancient supremacy. The repeated conflagrations at Cluny and the late spontaneous fire in the Moss of Inshoch (which forms part of the heath) are held to be indications of supernatural wrath not to be mistaken. 'The Moss wi' the fire spurting up through it looked for all the world like the cauldron itself', and a strange serpent was lately seen flying in the air at the same place! Whether it be possible to find a counterpoise to this supernatural machinery remains to be proved; but men are changed as well as times. The lairds are resolved to cultivate the blasted heath and the Forresians their favourite hill of Cluny, trusting rather to closer observation and a better police than dreading the influences of fast-decaying superstition."

January 21.—The foundation of a handsome granite monument was laid on Old New-Year's Day over the grave of Rob Donn, the Reay bard, in the Church-yard of Durness, Sutherland. The ceremony was carried out by Captain Mackay, Marybank, with Masonic honours.

Ibid.—“Died, at Holbeck, near Leeds, lately, aged 106, Betty Jackson. She had resided the whole of her long life in that village, where she had been parish apprentice. When she was in her 23rd year she accompanied the pack-horses which conveyed rations to General Ward’s [Wade’s] army, then at Tadcaster, on its route to Scotland to oppose the rebels in 1745. She had not suffered much from the infirmities of age; she possessed most of her faculties entire, and retained an uncommon degree of sprightliness; as an instance of which, about two years before her death, she sang a song with a good deal of animation.”

January 28.—The trial of Burke, the Edinburgh murderer, had excited a panic regarding the doings of resurrectionists, that is persons who lifted dead bodies from their graves to sell them for dissection. A paragraph in this issue makes it clear that the practice was carried on, and naturally excited dread and indignation. At Gartenmore, Strathspey, a party were fired on by watchmen, and one of them was wounded and carried off by his comrades. The charge was of small shot. “In almost every town and village of the North nightly watches are appointed over the church-yards. At Forres, where a short time ago a regular system of disinterment was carried on, a handsome little building has been erected in the church-yard for the purpose of protection, which is furnished with windows looking out in all directions, and is nightly tenanted with guards.” A story is told of an innkeeper who detected boxes going through by coach, and being suspicious, had one of them examined. It was found to contain a dead body.

Ibid.—A correspondence was going on at this time about a proposal to establish a steam ferry-boat between Nairn and Cromarty. A letter in this issue characterises it as an absurd project. Other correspondents took a different view.

Ibid.—It is stated that arrangements are in progress for the emigration of several hundred persons from Lord Macdonald’s estates in Skye. Two respectable agents, Islesmen themselves, had chartered vessels for the purpose, partly as a trading speculation, partly as an act of philanthropy. “The Island of Cape Breton, in the Gulf of St Lawrence, is the point to which the views of the emigrants are directed, and thither they are to be carried for the sum of two pounds sterling! the agent finding them in fresh water during the voyage, but every man providing his own stock of provisions, for which a certain extent of stowage is to be allowed him. Highlanders, it is well known,

can exist on very little when necessity requires them to do so. If each grown person, therefore, lays in one boll of oatmeal and another of potatoes, there is no fear of him starving; and thus for somewhat less than four pounds he will reach the promised land. A great many Islesmen who have, of late years, gone out under exactly similar circumstances, are now comfortably settled in Cape Breton and Prince Edward's Island; and this fact, communicated by those pioneers to their friends at home, has in the present instance directed the tide of emigration to these quarters."

February 4.—The death is recorded in Strathnairn of an old woman named Margaret Macdonald, who had served for some time as a soldier. In her youth she loved a young man, Hugh Fraser, who enlisted as a soldier for service in America; and in order to be near him, Margaret, without his knowledge, dressed herself in male attire (not the kilt), and also enlisted. She accompanied the regiment abroad, but her sex was ultimately detected by the regimental tailor, when he was measuring her for some clothing. The Colonel was so interested in the case that he gave permission to Hugh and Margaret to be married. "Nearly all the officers of the regiment were present at the ceremony, which took place in Washington, and a blither bridal had not been seen for many a day. As Hugh Fraser was as brave in the field as he had been true in love, he was in the following summer promoted to the rank of sergeant. On the expiration of his term of service, Hugh and Margaret returned to their native glen, and lived long to enjoy the reward of their well-tried affection. Margaret was the latest survivor, but her heart seemed ever to be fixed on the days of yore, and to anticipate the period when she would sleep by the side of the faithful husband for whom she had displayed such devotedness and heroism."

February 11.—The bill to provide for Catholic Emancipation was announced in the King's Speech on the 5th inst.

February 18.—There is a long memorial from the Town Council on a bill for building, enlarging, and repairing gaols in Scotland. All the burghs were opposed to the burdens to be laid on them by the proposed measure. The Inverness memorial says:—"Every possible care seems to have been taken in the bill to relieve the counties from expense so long as a farthing can be wrung from the burghs; and every precaution employed to secure to these counties the whole power and credit of the measure, even down to the very trappings of its name!"

Ibid.—There was a good deal of discussion about a project to shorten the route to Dunkeld by a road from Inverness direct to Spey-Bridge through the Monadh-liadh. There is a long letter on the subject in this issue. The County of Inverness was also engaged in promoting a Turnpike Bill.

February 25.—“The rather novel but excellent practice of trial by jury before the Sheriff was exhibited this day in our Court-house. Three cases were tried of comparatively little importance, but the Court was crowded to excess from a little after ten o'clock in the morning till twelve at night.”

March 4.—There was excitement over Catholic Emancipation. Strong hostility to the measure prevailed among the clergy of Ross-shire, and petitions were signed in every parish. “Ross-shire appears to be the only one of the seven Northern Counties that has had recourse to petitions. A motion of an anti-Catholic nature was made at a meeting of the Nairn Presbytery last week, but its consideration was adjourned till a subsequent meeting, which in the present crisis was equivalent to a negative.”

Ibid.—At a meeting of Commissioners of Supply in Tain it was carried by a large majority that Dingwall was a more suitable site for the County Gaol than Tain. The vote (as given in next issue) was 36 to 24.

March 11.—On the previous Friday a number of boys and lads assembled on the Castlehill, which is described as a “fine green eminence which overlooks the River Ness.” There is no hint of any remains of the old Castle existing. The object of the gathering was to burn “a sort of effigy” expressive of hatred of Popery. The proceedings afterwards developed into a disturbance, in which the windows of the Catholic Chapel and the Police Office were broken.

March 18.—This number contains the report of the Edinburgh meeting, at which Dr Chalmers delivered his famous speech in favour of Catholic Emancipation. The excitement now prevailing in the North of Scotland may be gathered from the following paragraph:—“A number of respectable gentlemen of the town and county of Nairn meditated last week the drawing up of petitions in favour of the bill now before Parliament, but owing to the present excited state of the public mind, and from a consciousness that the bill will pass, the design has been abandoned. A similar feeling, we may add, is pretty general in all the North-

ern Counties among the educated classes. There can be no doubt, it is said, but the Premier will conduct the measure to a successful issue, and why should we, merely to declare our opinion publicly, run the risk of creating a disturbance, and endangering the security of our lives and property?" In Inverness petitions were got up against the bill. One was by the Six Incorporated Trades, and was signed by about 460 names of "masters, journeymen, and apprentices." There were serious riots in the town of Thurso.

March 25.—This number contains an account of the duel between the Duke of Wellington and the Earl of Winchilsea.—There are numerous notices of petitions against the Emancipation Bill.

Ibid.—"The Session Lands of Diriebught, near Inverness, consisting of about 22 acres, were this day let on a 14 years' lease to the Millburn Distillery Company for the sum of £136. The former rent, on an old lease held by Mr Welsh of Millburn, was only £16 per annum."

April 1.—The Minister and Heritors of the parish of Kirkhill allowed a decree of reduction of the sentence of the Presbytery of Inverness, in the case of the schoolmaster, to pass by default. The effect was to continue the parish schoolmaster in office, though the Presbytery had endeavoured to remove him. The case at the time caused great local interest.

April 8.—It is stated that universal stagnation of trade prevails throughout the manufacturing districts. In Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool, and other towns thousands of operatives were out of employment.

April 15.—On the previous Friday the bill for Catholic Emancipation passed the House of Lords, and in due course received the Royal assent.

April 22.—Mr Telford, engineer, in reporting the observations made by him during his Highland tour the previous summer, has the following note on Sutherland:—"In no part of the Highlands is the progress of improvement so evident as from Bonar-Bridge along the coast of Sutherland to Helmsdale. Previous to the commencement of the Dunrobin road, the Bonar and Helmsdale bridges, in 1808, when I travelled into that quarter, in surveying for the future roads, it was with difficulty and not without danger that I could scramble along a rugged, broken, sandy shore, or by narrow tracks on the edge of precipices, frequently interrupted by rude and inconvenient ferries; and having for lodgings only miserable huts, scarcely protected from the inclemency of the

weather; while the adjacent country had scarcely the marks of cultivation. Now a mail coach passes daily from Tain by Bonar-Bridge, the Fleet Mound, Dunrobin, Helmsdale, and the Ord of Caithness, to the extremity of the Island at Wick and Thurso, without being interrupted by a single ferry. Along the coast of Sutherland there are commodious inns; at Golspie, near Dunrobin Castle, there is one equal to any to be found in England. Helmsdale has become an important fishing station, where are two very decent inns, and a number of herring houses. At Brora there is an extensive new village, and the same at Bonar-Bridge. Along the whole of the road the lands are laid out in regular farms, with proper dwellings and offices, some of them very extensive, the whole presenting a picture which must afford pleasure to everyone who feels gratified in observing the prosperity of his country. For the whole of this, excepting the roads and bridges, the public is indebted to the Stafford family and their active and intelligent agents."

Ibid.—"We understand that Mr Robert Urquhart has been admitted as a procurator before the Sheriff and other Courts in Morayshire, and has commenced business in Forres."

April 29.—There is a letter in this issue signed "M.," evidently written by Hugh Miller. It relates to Cromarty traditions which he afterwards published. It was shortly before this time that Miller called at the "Courier" office, which was then in High Street, and made the acquaintance of Mr Carruthers. His Poems had not yet appeared.

May 13.—"We understand that the London Smacks belonging to this place are to commence sailing once a-week after the 1st of June. They are to sail from London every Thursday and from Cromarty every Tuesday." This shows that the smacks still continued to run weekly.

May 20.—There was at this time considerable friction between the Parliamentary Commissioners of Highland Roads and Bridges and the local Heritors. Meantime it is stated that the toll-bars in the county, seven in number, had been let for a total rental of £674, being an increase of more than £200 on the proceeds of the previous year. The writer of the paragraph adds:—"The amount of toll derived from the coaches on the Fort-George and Badenoch Roads, exclusive of the mails, was last year £368, which, being added to the produce of the tolls, makes a total of no less than £1042. This will prove the best way of

adjusting the differences between the Heritors and Commissioners."

May 27.—It is stated that Sir Peter Lawrie, one of the Aldermen of London, and Sir Richard Birnie, the head Police Magistrate in England, were both natives of Scotland, and began life in the employment of Mr Godsman, "son of that Captain Godsman whose name is as familiar as a household word in Inverness, from the circumstances of his having formed one of the most beautiful and romantic walks in the vicinity of the town." It seems doubtful whether Captain Godsman made the walk, but he certainly used it.

June 3.—In this issue is advertised Hugh Miller's first work, "Poems Written in the Leisure Hours of a Journeyman Mason." The price is four shillings. The advertisement gives a synopsis of the contents. A note in the same issue announces the publication of the volume, and says that "the author resides at Cromarty, and is unquestionably possessed of genius of no common order."

Ibid.—The Royal Burghs of Scotland are congratulated on the withdrawal of the Gaol Bill, which had proved so obnoxious to them. Another bill, however, was promised, and was required. The gaols could not be left as they were. "The Lord Advocate draws a melancholy picture of the want of accommodation and comfort in many Scottish gaols, and amongst the rest is that of our own Royal burgh, though in one respect we are outdone by our countrymen of Dumfries, who give their prisoners access to the open air by suspending them in an iron cage attached to the wall."

June 10.—In this number there is a review of Hugh Miller's volume. The writer, who is evidently Mr Carruthers, quotes a remark by Mackenzie that "there is a certain poetic ground on which a man cannot tread without feelings that enlarge the heart, and that many who are not able to reach the Parnassian heights, may yet approach so near as to be bettered by the air of the climate." Miller's volume is considered as affording an excellent illustration of this maxim. At the same time, the poems are commended as possessing "considerable power both of thought and expression, and so much harmony in the versification, and variety of imagery, as to afford another instance of the truth of an observation made by Rousseau that genius, like flame, will burst through all obstructions." Hugh Miller's personality had evidently made a deeper impression on the editor than the poems themselves, though appreciation of their merits is not lacking. Mr Carruthers quotes a passage from the work,

and concludes by expressing satisfaction that the author gave unremitting attention to his occupation as a mason, and confined his devotion to the muses to his leisure hours.

June 17.—In this and two subsequent issues there are anecdotes and reminiscences of the Rev. Mr Gordon, who was minister of Alvie, in Badenoch, at the time of the '45. He is said to have lived to the great age of 105 years, and his memory was long cherished in Badenoch. He died in 1787. The Scottish Fasti says his death occurred in the 101st year of his age and the 57th of his ministry. It was Mr Gordon who was summoned before the Duke of Cumberland at Inverness to answer for his conduct in relieving rebels after Culloden. The minister is reported to have said—"May it please your Royal Highness, I am exceedingly straitened between two contrary commands, both coming from very high authority. My Heavenly King's son commands me to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to give meat and drink to my very enemies, and to relieve to the utmost of my power indiscriminately all objects of disease that come in my way. My earthly King's son commands me to drive the houseless wanderer from my door, to shut my bowels of compassion against the cries of the needy, and to withhold from my fellow-mortals in distress the relief which it is in my power to afford. Pray which of these commands am I to obey?" It is one instance to the credit of the Duke that he commended Mr Gordon, and told him to obey the commands of his Heavenly King's Son.

June 24.—The Sheep and Wool Fair was held the previous week. Prices—Cheviot widders, 18s to 24s; ewes, 12s 6d to 14s; lambs, 7s to 8s 6d; blackfaced widders, 14s to 18s; ewes, 9s to 10s 6d; lambs, 6s to 7s. Little business was done in wool, but Cheviot wool brought last year's prices, namely, 8s 6d and 9s per stone. The project of postponing the market for a few weeks later, though not formally brought forward, was discussed.

July 1.—Among gifts to the Museum of the Northern Institution is the following:—"A lithographic sketch, from George Mackenzie, Esq., writer, Dingwall, of the arms of Sir Thomas Urquhart of Cromarty, taken from a carved slab formerly in the family mansion-house of Cromarty, and now in the Kinbeachie Cottage, dated 1651. The sketch of this curious piece of sculpture was executed some years ago by Thomas Mackenzie, Esq of Kinbeachie, the representative of the ancient family."

Ibid.—The Commissioners entrusted with the administration of £50,000 to build churches and

manse in the Highlands report that they have built forty-two churches and forty-one manse, all paid in full; and that they have a small surplus over which they intend to apply in building a church and manse at Carnoch, in Strathconon. This they represent as a specially remote and needy district. With the buildings at Carnoch, the report says, the work of the Commissioners "may be deemed final and complete."

July 15.—The opening up of the Ness Islands is recorded. The appeal made to the public in the previous year had been promptly responded to, several hundred pounds having been subscribed. "The first and larger island has been laid out with considerable taste, and cultivated with great care; it is adorned with a profusion of flowering plants and evergreens, and with spacious, neatly-formed walks winding on each side." A handsome suspension bridge had been thrown across the eastern branch of the river, to make the Islands accessible. "It is a light and graceful structure, and wants only a companion on the other side to render it complete. Without another bridge to connect the walks on the opposite side of the river, the improvement will continue very defective and unfinished; and as the funds are already exhausted, we think the Committee ought to make a second appeal to the public, to endeavour to secure this desideratum."

Ibid.—"Instructions have been received from the General Post-Office that from the date of Sunday next, the South mail will in future, instead of arriving at three a.m. as at present, reach Inverness by ten o'clock on the previous evening. This acceleration has been accomplished by abridging the stoppages and bringing the mail direct by Huntly, instead of the coast road by Banff. The mail at the same time will be despatched for the South at twelve o'clock at night instead of ten."

Ibid.—A summary is given of a new Sheriff Court Small Debt Act. It rendered decrees and arrestments operative in any county, and not merely in the county of the debtor's residence, as theretofore.

July 22.—The Committee of the General Assembly issued their report on education in the Highlands. Since May 1828 the Committee had established 19 additional schools, making the number on the establishment 85. The progress was gratifying, but the report says—"On a moderate computation, 170 additional schools are still required in the Highlands and Islands, and upwards of 8000 of the young betwixt

eight and fifteen years of age are still unable to read and write.

Ibid.—The French Duc de Chartres visited Inverness the previous week. He made a pencil sketch of the house in Inverness in which Prince Charles Edward resided previous to the battle of Culloden, and which was afterwards occupied by the Duke of Cumberland. The Duke visited Culloden battlefield, being shown over it by "honest John Macdonald," who was accustomed to act as guide. The paragraph says that the Duc de Chartres had the good taste and feeling to condemn a barbarous practice which existed of opening the graves of the Highlanders for the purpose of carrying off bones as relics.

July 29.—Hugh Miller's Letters on the Herring Fishery begin on this date, and are continued through several issues.

August 5 and 12.—These two issues contain accounts of the great floods of the 3rd and 4th August. The story is told in full by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder in his book on the Moray Floods. The only flood with which this could be compared at the time was one which occurred in September 1766. The flood of 1829, however, was said to be much greater than its precursor.*

August 12.—The young Chief of Glengarry attained his majority on the 29th inst. The occasion was celebrated by a dinner in the Macdonnell Arms, Glengarry. Captain Macdonell of Achad-leathann was in the chair.

Ibid.—"Died, on 25th July, in the house of her son, Captain J. Macdonell of Killiechonan, Catharine, widow of the late John Dhu of Aberarder, and the last surviving of the children of the late Colonel Alexander Macdonell of Keppoch, who fell at the head of his own regiment in the battle of Culloden. Mrs Macdonell was a perfect model of a lady of the old school, and beloved by all for her benevolence of heart, as well as engaging manners. At the advanced age of ninety she retained the use of all her faculties, and was cheerful and active to the last. Her funeral, on Monday, notwithstanding the unfavourableness of the weather, was attended by upwards of 600 persons."

September 2.—A second storm swept over the country on the 26th and 27th ult. It is described as "even more violent than that of the 3rd and 4th ult.," but it was not so widespread and disastrous. Still, it seems to have been bad enough. The Valley of the Ness suffered. "Thursday," says the report, "was without exception the most awful day we ever wit-

* Note A.—The Moray Floods.

nessed. The rain fell in torrents, and the wind was a perfect hurricane." A vessel in the harbour at Nairn was wrecked and most of the pier disappeared.

September 16.—"The highly useful project of supplying our good town with water is now nearly finished, and bids fair to be completely successful. Last night the machinery was put to the test in presence of a number of spectators. The water-wheel that drives the force pump, by means of which the water is sent to the reservoir, is of simple but powerful construction, made under the direction of that ingenious mechanic, Mr Miller, manager of the Company's works. It is made to rise and fall according to the state of the river, and propels the water through pipes a distance of 1300 yards, at an elevation of about 100 feet. Last night water was for the first time forced up to the reservoir, and from thence down Castle Street and Bridge Street, thus proving the practicability and success of the works."

September 30.—The Northern Meeting and Inverness Races were held the previous week. "The attendance was more respectable than numerous."

Ibid.—Dr Robertson of Aultnaskiah was re-elected Provost of Inverness. The Common Good of the burgh realised £963 14s. This included £520 for anchorage and shore dues, being a decrease of £45 on the previous year. The Petty Customs and Toll of the Old Bridge fetched £320.

October 7.—The County of Inverness concurred in the proposal of the Convener, Sheriff Fraser-Tytler, that it was expedient and of importance to have the members of Parliament for the Northern Counties added to the Board of Parliamentary Commissioners for Highland Roads and Bridges.—The same meeting considered a report of a Committee on the state of the Inverness Gaol. The report recommended that a new gaol should be built, the expense to be defrayed by an assessment of threepence on every pound Scots of valued rent to be paid by the proprietors, and three halfpence on every pound of rent payable by tenants. Supposing the gaol to cost £10,000, the whole of that sum with interest would in this way be paid in six years. The meeting continued the Committee, with instructions to meet with the Inverness Magistrates with a view to transmit a joint report to the Secretary of State. This joint report was adopted in the end of October. It recommended that gaols should be erected and maintained at the expense of each class of the

community according to ability, assessment to be levied on real rent in town and county.

Ibid.—“A circumstance, happily now of rare occurrence, took place on the 25th ult. A large smuggling lugger was captured in Loch-Sni-zort, Isle of Skye, with eleven men and a valuable cargo of gin, tea, tobacco, and snuff on board. The seizure was not made till after a long chase, and several guns were fired.”

October 14.—There is quoted from “The Caledonian Mercury” a cordial notice of “Poems by a Journeyman Mason.” The critic says “that the pieces contained in the humble volume before us bear the stamp and impress of no ordinary genius.”

Ibid.—The death is announced of Bailie John Simpson, in his 68th year. He had been more than forty years a merchant in Inverness, and about half that time a magistrate. He was noted for his freedom “from anything like guile or selfishness,” and for kindness and warmth of heart.

Ibid.—Mr William Murray of Rosemount was elected Provost of Tain. Sir Charles A. Ross of Balnagown was made a burgess of the town.

October 21.—Three prisoners, Irishmen, made their escape from the gaol of Tain by breaking through the walls. A Committee of Commissioners of Supply and Justices reported in favour of erecting a new jail at Dingwall.

Ibid.—There is a contribution, two columns long, entitled “Authentic Narrative of the Passage of John de Groat from Holland, of his arrival at Duncansbay Head, in Caithness, and his first reception from the natives, &c.” It is written by a correspondent at John O’Groat’s, who was in the habit of sending clever poetical pieces, and whom the editor requested to try his hand at prose.

November 14.—At a meeting of the Inverness Farmer Society there was a discussion on the annual cost of a pair of farm horses, including the expense of a ploughman and wear and tear of harness. One practical farmer, whose calculation is given, figured out the cost at £66 19s 3d. The servants’ wages are put at £8, and meal £6, making a total of £14.

Ibid.—“Died, at Aix-la-Chapelle, Lieut.-Colonel Colquhoun Grant, son of the late Duncan Grant of Lingieston, of disease contracted at Arracaus. This distinguished officer, during the Peninsular war, and subsequently in Belgium, was at the head of the Intelligence Department of the army.”

November 25.—There is a report of a meeting of the Nairnshire Missionary Society—Mr James

A. Grant, Viewfield, in the chair. The contributions for the year amounted to more than £53.

December 30.—The Editor closes the year 1829 with cordial thanks for increased support. In less than two years there had been an addition of more than 250 subscribers. He specially thanks his correspondents—"some of them destined, if we mistake not, to reflect honour on the literature of their country." Several contributions from Hugh Miller, besides his Letters on the Herring Fishery, can be traced through the last eight months of the year. They appear in revised form in his published works.

No. VI.

The year 1830 is the dividing line between two political eras. When the year began, however, the premonitions of change showed themselves only in general mutterings and discontent. The Government of the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel had been weakened by the Act of Catholic Emancipation, which was resented by a large section of his own party. The Duke had previously parted with an influential section of the Whigs, and the Opposition was rapidly becoming compact and powerful, reinforced on occasion by Tory malcontents. The subject of electoral reform was coming to the front, though more slowly than one would imagine at this distance of time. The real grievance arose from the distress of the country. Manufacturers and agriculturists were both suffering to such an extent that a member of Parliament described the working classes as approaching starvation. When Parliament met in February 1830, the House of Commons was disappointed by the cold terms in which the Royal speech spoke of the condition of affairs. This intensified the feelings of dissatisfaction which had previously existed, and Ministers had a troubled time. While the political temper was in this unsettled state, George Fourth died in the month of June.

The second half of 1830 had scarcely begun when the Revolution broke out in France, which drove Charles X. from the throne, and set up Louis Philippe. The movement was hailed with enthusiasm in Britain, where the autocratic policy of Charles and his Minister Prince de Polignac was regarded with strong aversion. The upheaval in France excited Belgium, which disliked the connection with Holland established by the Congress of Vienna in 1815, and a revolt at Brussels ended, before the close of the year, in the establishment of Belgian independence. Events on the Continent reacted on this country, and created a strong desire for political Reform.

The new King, William IV., had been welcomed on his accession to the Throne, but his popularity did not strengthen the Duke of Wellington's administration. The new Parliament which was summoned on the accession of the King speedily showed its dissatisfaction with the Cabinet. The Houses

assembled on the 26th of October, and got to business early in November. Earl Grey, referring to the disturbances on the Continent, spoke in the Lords of the importance of securing the affections of their fellow-subjects by reforming Parliament. The Duke of Wellington at once took up a position of hopeless antagonism. He said "he had never heard or read of any measure up to the present moment which could in any degree satisfy his mind that the state of the representation could be improved, or be rendered more satisfactory to the country at large than at the present moment." There is a story that the Tory Peers were themselves so amazed at this declaration that when Wellington sat down, a hum of criticism arose through the House; and the Duke, on asking a colleague what it meant, received the reply, "You have announced the fall of your Government, that is all." The actual defeat, however, came on a motion in the House of Commons, proposed by Sir Henry Parnell, for a Committee on the Civil List. This motion was carried on the 15th of November by a majority of 29, and the Ministry resigned. Earl Grey was sent for to form an administration, and Brougham became Lord Chancellor. Lord Althorp was selected as Chancellor of the Exchequer and leader of the House of Commons, with Lord John Russell as one of his most active colleagues. It was understood from the outset that Parliamentary Reform would engage the attention of the new Ministry.

The year 1830 is famous for the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, which proved beyond dispute the value of the form of locomotion advocated by George Stephenson. The opening ceremony occurred on 15th September. Unfortunately the occasion was marred by an accident which proved fatal to William Huskisson, the member for Liverpool, a man who had done eminent service as a statesman and financier. Huskisson was knocked down by a passing engine, and died on the evening of the same day.

From the "Inverness Courier."

1830.

January 6.—A few days before there was launched at Cromarty, from the shipyard of Hugh Allan, a large handsome schooner, which was christened "The Sutors of Cromarty." The launch is described by a correspondent, evidently Hugh Miller, who makes the inci-

dent the occasion for a column of interesting traditions.

January 13.—There is a long account in this issue of a case that arose in connection with the administration of Dr White's charity, Rosskeen. The case is not now of special interest, but the extract from the will of the testator, Dr White, of Bombay, may be quoted:—"I direct that £2000 sterling be founded or mortgaged in that parish [Rosskeen] for the decayed and modest poor—that the interest of the above sum be annually distributed among the most indigent, in sums from three to five pounds yearly, *cæteris paribus* the name of Bethune to be preferred. The minister for the time being and elders to be managers, with two of the chief heritors in rotation of twenty years."

January 20.—The Magistrates and bakers of Inverness met to consider the price of bread, and agreed to reduce it a penny per 4-lb. loaf. The price of this loaf for fine bread was fixed at ninepence, and second quality sevenpence.

Ibid.—The Reay country had recently been acquired by the house of Sutherland, and extensive improvements were contemplated. "A complete survey has been made of the whole, and roads and bridges are forthwith to be entered upon. The people seem highly gratified that since it was found necessary to dispose of the estate, it has fallen into the hands of the present noble proprietor, the Marquis of Stafford, whose public spirit will undoubtedly supply the natives with means of employment, and thus materially better their condition. The lands of the noble Marquis in the North, by this recent extension, stretch over a tract of country exceeding, in a direct line, one hundred miles."

January 27.—Subscriptions for the improvements of the Ness Islands had reached the amount of £803 8s 6d. It was hoped that further contributions would be obtained to enable the committee to complete their original scheme of throwing a bridge over the western branch of the river, and so connecting the banks on both sides. In the next issue an additional sum of £50 was announced from Mr David Inglis, London, making his contribution £100.

Ibid.—A letter from Stornoway states that the Hon. Mrs Stewart Mackenzie had established five Sabbath Schools in that town, besides a female school where the children of the poor were taught during the week English, Gaelic, writing, and needlework; also a Sabbath evening school for the instruction of female servants. The same lady was endeavouring to

establish similar schools in other parishes in the Lews.

February 3.—The price of bread in Inverness is the subject of discussion. Two points of some interest are brought out. One is that the loaf sold here for 9d was then 5 ounces 8 drams less in weight than the loaf sold in Edinburgh for 8d. The other has reference to the legal position of the trade. "We are told," says the editor, "that the bakers are by law allowed 25 per cent., and that as the Magistrates cannot interfere with them within this allowance, the best way to reduce prices would be to establish a competition."

Ibid.—A meeting was held at Elgin to consider the question of lighting the town with gas. "It was resolved that the Magistrates, having agreed to pay annually for five years the sum of £35, the inhabitants should assess themselves in a rate of 4d per pound rent for a like period of five years, all houses under £5 rent being exempted from the assessment." The meeting next resolved to form a joint stock company, with a capital of £2500, and within half-an-hour £1640 worth of shares were taken.

Ibid.—At an Excise Court held in Grantown, a number of persons were cited for having in their possession candle-moulds or home-made candles, without having paid duty. The Excise officers had made a raid in the district, and brought up between forty and fifty cases. The Justices would not convict where only one candle was found, or where moulds only were produced, holding "that the mere possession of a mould did not constitute a breach of the Excise laws." In cases where more than one candle was found, the Court awarded a "mitigated" penalty of £25, with a recommendation to the Board of Excise to exact no more than a nominal fine. This raid led to an angry correspondence in subsequent numbers. The Excise officers alleged that the candles were not made for home use, but were turned out in considerable numbers for sale. They had seized as many as 32 stones of candles.

February 10.—Two serious crimes are reported in this number. One is the murder of a lonely woman named Helen Mackenzie, sixty years of age, at her cottage near the mill-dam of Achngarron, Easter Ross. The motive was robbery, as she was believed to possess money. A search through subsequent files shows that the authorities failed to discover the murderer.—The other serious case was the robbery of a pedlar near Grantown. The poor man was attacked

and left insensible. He was robbed of £23 in money, and of goods to the value of £30. The perpetrators of this outrage were not discovered, at least at the time.

Ibid.—The debates at the opening of Parliament are reported at considerable length. The Government of the Duke of Wellington was getting into those difficulties which led to the first Reform Bill. A clause in the Royal Speech, which represented the distress in this country as local or partial, was keenly resented.

February 17.—The death of General Stewart of Garth, Governor of the Island of St Lucia, occurred on 18th December. "The General was known as a gallant soldier, and no less known as the author of one of the most interesting books in the language—'Sketches of the Highlands, &c.' We lately saw a letter from the General, written in high health and spirits, in which he indulged the anticipation of long and happy days in St Lucia. He had begun a number of improvements, towards the completion of which he was looking eagerly forward, little dreaming of the melancholy event that was so nigh at hand."

Ibid.—"Early in the morning of Saturday, the 6th inst., before daylight, as a party of Excise officers were returning from a survey in the Dingwall district, after destroying a quantity of malt, they were fired at from amongst some bushes by the roadside at Crofts of Ardnagrask, near the Muir of Ord. One of the men had two slug shots fired through his hat, and his head was slightly grazed, but none of the party were injured. As the Excisemen were ignorant of the strength of the party, they judged it best to pursue their journey without attempting to seize their assailants."

February 24.—At a meeting of the Magistrates and bakers of Inverness, held on this date, it was resolved to return to the old weight of the quartern loaf, 4 lbs. 5 oz. 8 dr., and to fix the price as follows:—Fine quartern loaf, 9d; second do., 7d; and the small bread in proportion. This change was due to threatened competition, and the paragraph says that "we think the old monopoly is now fairly broken down, and will never again be so firmly established."

March 3.—A very beautifully executed series of drawings by a lady, done from the etchings of Mr Petley, of the carved stones at Nigg and Shandwick, in Ross-shire, were laid before the Northern Institution. They were intended for the Royal Antiquarian Society of

Copenhagen, between whom and the Northern Institution a correspondence had for some time subsisted. At the same meeting Mr George Anderson, the secretary, read a paper on vitrified forts.

Ibid.—The baptism of a converted Jew, which took place in the Inverness Gaelic Church, caused some local excitement. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Mr Clark. The man was a native of Warsaw, named Ezekiel or Caspar Auerback, and was a hawker of stationery and other articles.

March 10.—There is a description of a wild boar hunt which took place by the side of the Deveron, in Banffshire. Some years previously the Earl of Fife had imported a boar and three sows from Germany, but they and their progeny had dropped off one by one, except a single fine boar, which haunted the district. During a snowstorm, however, he became a terror to the people, and the country-side turned out with dog and gun to despatch him. "His path was easily tracked in the snow, and on meeting the fierce intruder a spirited scene ensued. His extraordinary speed, no less than his ferocity, kept the belligerents at bay for some time, but he was at length destroyed, pierced by a number of bullets."

March 17.—The steamer *Maid of Morven*, from Inverness to Glasgow, foundered at Oban quay. She had taken the ground when the tide receded, and the weight of goods overbalanced her. No lives were lost.

March 31.—The foundation-stone of Anderson's Institution was laid at Elgin on the previous Wednesday with Masonic honours. The members of two lodges took part in the ceremony, namely, Kilmolymock Lodge and Trinity Lodge. The foundation-stone was laid by the Grandmaster, William Brodie of Brodie.

April 7.—"The fever of emigration is at present raging in its height in the county of Sutherland, and the wilds of Upper Canada are this year the chosen scene for this voluntary exile. Vessels have been freighted to sail about the end of May, and no less than three hundred males, besides children, have already registered their names as passengers."

April 14.—From the report of the Commissioners on Highland Roads and Bridges it appeared that £1800 had been expended in repairing the damage caused by the floods of 1829, and that other £10,000 would be required.

Ibid.—A movement was on foot to establish an Academy at Nairn, and a list of subscriptions

is given.—A Mechanics' Institute was also set on foot at Nairn.

April 21 and 28.—A jury trial was held at Inverness, in which the Hon. Mrs Hay Mackenzie was pursuer and Sir Hugh Munro, Bart. of Fowlis, was defender. The case related to the possession of a small glen on Ben-Nevis, called Corrienafole, occupied as a summer grazing and a shooting ground in the autumn. A great number of witnesses were examined in Gaelic. The trial lasted for three days, and in the end the jury found for the pursuer.

Ibid.—The first notice appears of the Assynt murderer, famous in local annals. The body of a pedlar named Murdo Grant, who is described as a steady, respectable young man, was found in a loch in Assynt. The marks on his body showed that it was too probable he had met with a violent death. The Sheriff of Sutherland and the Procurator-Fiscal, who were attending the Circuit Court at Inverness when the news arrived, set off to investigate the matter.

May 5.—There are reports of discussions at the Synod of Moray and the Presbytery of Inverness relative to the law of patronage. At both, the Rev. Mr Clark, Inverness, moved an overture to the General Assembly urging the propriety of enacting that before a minister could be inducted to a church, a call to him must be regularly signed by a majority of the male communicants of a parish. Rev. Mr Fraser, of Kirkhill, seconded. The overture was rejected in the Synod by 20 votes to 9, and in the Presbytery by 5 votes to 4. One of the arguments against the overture was that it would bring the Church into collision with the civil law.

May 28.—"Sir Robert Peel, the venerable father of Mr Secretary Peel, died on Monday week, and the consequent absence of the Secretary has caused some interruption to the business of the House of Commons. Several motions have been postponed, and the House adjourned on Thursday night to Monday. Mr O'Connell and Lord John Russell have postponed their motions on the subject of the reform of the representation of the people, which stood for Thursday, till Friday, May 28."

Ibid.—It is stated that a young man named Macleod, had been arrested in Assynt on suspicion of being connected with the murder of the pedlar, Murdoch Grant. The body of the murdered man had been dreadfully bruised and mangled by a hatchet or hammer. It was known that he had left his native parish of

Lochbroom with goods in his pack to the value of at least £50, and money on his person to the amount of £5. Suspicion alighted on Macleod from his changing a £5 bank note.

May 19.—The trial of a will case, known as the Dundonnell cause, occupies a large part of the paper. The jury were unable to agree, and were discharged.

Ibid.—Among the donations to the Northern Institution was a set of preserved specimens of the *Linnæa borealis* in flower, gathered on the Knock of Alves, near Elgin, by the Rev. George Gordon of that town. From the same gentleman there was also laid on the table a complete and valuable assortment of the rocks found in the lower district of Morayshire, accompanied by a memoir on the geology of that part of the country. Mr George Anderson, the Secretary, also read a paper on the great boulder, Tom Riach, which stands on the south bank of the River Nairn, about two miles from Culloden battlefield.

May 26.—The Right Hon. Charles Grant, M.P., presented the Rev. Alexander Beith, minister at Kilbrandon, to the parish of Glenelg, in the Presbytery of Lochcarron.

June 2.—On the 24th ult. a Cromarty boat, returning from Wick with passengers, struck on a rock in the neighbourhood of Dunbeath, and all on board, with one exception, perished. Ten lives were lost, including a family named Ross from Tain, consisting of husband and wife and six children. "It is not a little remarkable," says the report, "that since the middle of autumn last a greater number of the inhabitants of Cromarty have perished at sea than for the thirty years preceding."

June 9.—The question whether Catholics were liable for fees to Session Clerks was decided in the negative by the Sheriff-Substitute at Inverness. The case arose out of a claim made by the Session-Clerk of Kilmonivaig for registering the births and marriages of certain of the parishioners who were Roman Catholics. The entries were made without the knowledge or consent of the parents.

Ibid.—"We understand that the important cause betwixt Glengarry and the Caledonian Canal Commissioners, which has been for some years in the Court of Session, was decided in favour of the Commissioners on Saturday last. The case related to the possession of Loch-Oich, which is surrounded by lands belonging to Glengarry, and for the use of which, in the formation of the Canal, he claimed compensation from the Commissioners. The decision

goes to establish what was urged for the defenders, that an inland loch is the property of the surrounding proprietors, only while it is of no use to the public, and that the public have a right to convert such lochs to the public benefit whenever practicable."

June 23.—The Inverness Wool Market was held the previous week. Prices for wool were a shade higher than the previous year, but prices for sheep were at least twenty per cent down. Not one-fourth of the usual business was transacted. A long-argued question concerning the date of the fair was settled. Hitherto it had been held in the middle of June. At a meeting, however, held on this occasion, it was resolved to postpone the time till the second Thursday of July, and to make application to the Magistrates to sanction the change. Complaint was made of the high tolls charged for sheep. It was also stated that a disease which shepherds called "trembling" had appeared amongst flocks on their way South. It was supposed to be due to bad accommodation on the road, and to the fatigue of travelling on the hard, dry turnpikes.

Ibid.—The previous week two brigs left Cromarty for Quebec, carrying between them about 320 passengers. About a fortnight before another vessel sailed from the North with emigrants, and altogether it was believed that 600 persons, chiefly from Sutherland, had quitted their native country. This emigration seems to have sprung generally from the favourable representations of friends already settled in Canada. Many of the emigrants possessed property, and many were young and eager for adventure.

June 30.—This number announces the death of King George IV. The bulletin issued by the King's medical attendants was as follows:—"Windsor Castle, June 26. It has pleased Almighty God to take from the world the King's Most Excellent Majesty. His Majesty expired at a quarter-past three o'clock this morning without pain."

Ibid.—On the 21st inst. the foundation-stone of a branch of the National Bank was laid at Portree, in the Isle of Skye, and also of a commodious Inn. The ceremony took place with Masonic honours.

July 7.—On the previous Friday, at noon, the ceremony of proclaiming King William IV. was performed at the Cross of Inverness by the Sheriff-Depute of the County, in presence of the Magistrates of Inverness, the Sheriff-Substitute, and a large gathering. After the

proclamation, the Militia Staff fired three volleys. The Sheriff-Depute and Magistrates then retired to the Town Hall, where the oaths of allegiance were administered to the public officers, Justices of the Peace, and Procurators, before the Sheriff Court. The proclamation was also made at Tain and Nairn by the Sheriff or Sheriff-Substitute.

Ibid.—"Post riders have now been established to start twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays, from Golspie, for Tongue, Assynt, Lairg, and Lochinver. When the new road, which is now in progress, is completed letters will also be transmitted by riders to Durness and Scourie."

July 14.—Parliament was dissolved on the demise of King George IV., and in the county of Inverness a contest was at once begun. The Right Hon. Charles Grant was opposed by Macleod of Macleod. The latter grounded his claims on his adherence to the administration of the Duke of Wellington, from which Mr Grant had withdrawn. At the same time the Magistrates and Town Council of Inverness resolved to support Colonel Baillie of Leys as their candidate for the Inverness Burghs. "Nairn and Forres, we understand, have agreed to do the same, and as Inverness is the returning burgh, it seems almost certain that the present able member, Mr Robert Grant, will lose his seat." The opposition to Charles Grant was mainly political, but there is a tradition that a personal element entered into the opposition to Robert Grant. He had failed, it is said, to secure the office of Collector of Customs at Inverness for a near relative of his chief supporter, and accordingly received notice to quit. However this may be, the Wellington Ministry was evidently very anxious to oust the two Grants.

Ibid.—"A daring attempt was lately made to escape from the gaol of Dornoch by Hugh Macleod, the young man suspected of being the perpetrator of the atrocious murder at Assynt, and a convict of the name of Macdonald. The parties had, we understand, arranged to seize the gaolers, take the keys, and thus effect their escape. Information was, however, conveyed to the authorities by another prisoner, who had overheard the scheme, and steps were taken which prevented its completion. The prisoners were accordingly lodged in separate cells, and strictly guarded."

July 21.—Feeling began to run high in the contest for the representation of the county. It is explicitly stated that his Majesty's Ministers were using their influence against Charles

Grant. Circulars issued by his opponent had been franked by the Home Secretary. The "Courier," however, declared that Mr Grant was assured of a majority.

Ibid.—"Last week a veteran of the name of William Cameron died in the parish of Croy, county of Nairn, at the advanced age of 97. When only a lad he was pressed by the troops in the service of George II, and obliged to assist in conveying their baggage a short time previous to the memorable and decisive battle of Culloden, and at that conflict he fought in support of the House of Hanover against his father, who supported the claims of the last of the Stuarts. He went afterwards to the East Indies in the 73rd Regiment, and was ultimately discharged with a pension of a shilling a day, which he enjoyed for fifty years. Two of his grandsons, one of them a drill sergeant, are at present serving in the gallant 42nd Regiment. On one occasion his son, grandson, and son-in-law, and himself drew their pensions together at Fort-George." The "veteran" at the time of the battle of Culloden could not have been more than thirteen years of age.

July 28.—The number contains an account of improvements by the Marquis of Stafford in the county of Sutherland, especially in the making of roads. Previous to 1829 a road had been made along the north coast of Sutherland to the river Naver. At Whitsunday 1829 the Marquis acquired the Reay country, and directed the road to be continued to the Kyle of Tongue, and across the Moin to Loch-Eriboll.

August 14.—This number records the Revolution in France which caused the flight of Charles X. It is the number which Hugh Miller received at Cromarty when he was hewing in the neighbourhood of the harbour, surrounded by a group of French fishermen. Their boat bore the name of Charles X., and as soon as they heard of the King's flight, one of them took a piece of chalk, and effaced the royal name. Miller relates the incident in the next number of the "Courier," and has described it in his "Schools and Schoolmasters."

Ibid.—Mr Robert Grant was elected one of the members for the city of Norwich, having, in conjunction with Mr Gurney, ousted Colonel Jonathan Peel, a brother of the Home Secretary, over whom Mr Grant obtained a majority of 351. "The number of voters who came forward to support Mr Grant was 2277. Under all the circumstances a higher honour has seldom been conferred on a public man."

August 11.—The public are respectfully informed that the Caledonian Coach now runs daily to and from Perth, starting from the Caledonian Hotel, Inverness, at a quarter before 5 a.m., and from the George and Star Inn, Perth, at 6 a.m.

Ibid.—The first general meeting of subscribers to the Nairn Academy was held on the previous Friday, when a draft of the rules was carefully gone over and adjusted.—In the same number there is a review of Sir Thomas Dick Lauder's book on the Moray floods.

August 18.—Sir James W. Mackenzie of Scatwell was elected, without opposition, M.P. for the county of Ross. Lord Francis Leveson-Gower was elected member for the county of Sutherland.

Ibid.—It is stated that William Fraser of Goldston Hall, Berbice, had in his will bequeathed freedom to upwards of twenty slaves on his estate in the colony. Mr Fraser died at Tain in the 43rd year of his age.

August 25.—Colonel John Baillie of Leys was elected member for the Inverness District of Burghs. The same number records that the former member, Mr Robert Grant, had given £100 to the burgh of Fortrose for the purpose of defraying the expense incurred in bringing water into the town.—The Hon. Captain Campbell, brother of the Earl of Cawdor, was elected member for the county of Nairn. The new members entertained the leading inhabitants to dinner. The dinner given by Colonel Baillie in the Caledonian Hotel at Inverness is described as superb. "Two turtles, which had been ordered from London by the member, were served up in a style that would have thrown Meg Dods into ecstasies, while the various wines—champagne, Madeira, claret, &c.—were equally excellent."

September 1.—The contest for the representation of the county of Inverness terminated on the previous Friday in the re-election of Charles Grant. "From the commencement of the struggle the result was looked forward to with intense anxiety in all parts of the Kingdom. The periodical press, daily, weekly, monthly, and quarterly had taken up the subject—lords and commoners had discussed it at public meetings—politicians of all parties were on the qui vive, forecasting future events from the success or defeat of the popular candidate—and by universal consent the last election in Britain was pronounced to be one of the most important." It is stated that the contest was conducted with great courtesy on both sides. The battle was fought on public grounds. On

the day of election the trial of strength was made on the election of Chairman. For Mr Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch, who supported Mr Charles Grant, 34 freeholders voted; and for Colonel Grant of Grant, the leading man on the other side, 25. This gave the one party a majority of nine. Macleod of Macleod then withdrew from the contest, delivering at the same time a speech in which he expressed his political views. Mr Charles Grant also delivered a brilliant speech. Since his retirement from the Government he had acted as an independent member, and intended so to continue. "For the Duke of Wellington, the greatest Captain of his age, the benefactor of his country, the conqueror of Napoleon, he retained sentiments of the deepest respect and admiration." He claimed the right, however, to criticise the Duke's political administration. "Declining to give any pledge in general, this pledge I will give, that in just exertion to obtain your approbation and that of the country, I shall not be wanting. Gentlemen, I thank you for placing not the representation only, but the independence of the county, in my hands. The "Courier" says that after the roll of freeholders had been purged and made up, Mr Grant would have had a majority of 12. Mr Grant's dinner was held in the Caledonian Hotel, the company numbering 134. His brother, Mr Robert Grant, was present, and his health was proposed by young Lochiel, and drunk with great applause. Macleod entertained his friends in the Royal Hotel. A few days afterwards a splendid "election ball" was given in the Northern Meeting Rooms.

September 15.—There is a notice of a treatise on the natural history of the salmon, printed for private circulation by Mr Alexander Fraser, tacksman at Dochnalurg. "For more than forty years Mr Fraser had been sedulously engaged in the salmon trade, on the beautiful banks of the loch and river of Ness, and a series of attentive observations, continued through so long a period, has put him in possession of much new and valuable information on the subject of his study and pursuits."

September 22.—There were four murder cases at the Inverness autumn circuit. In one case the culprit was pronounced insane; the verdict in the second case was not proven; in the third not guilty. The fourth case was that of the Assynt murder, and the trial was postponed.

Ibid.—There is an account of the opening of the Liverpool railway, and the death of Mr Huskisson.

September 29.—The Northern Meeting of this

year is described as the duller ever remembered. The weather for some time had been very unfavourable.—Dr Robertson of Aultna-skiach was elected once more as Provost of Inverness.

Ibid.—At a Justice of Peace Court, held for the trial of offences against the Excise laws, there were fourteen cases forward—a much smaller number than on former occasions, and the majority of a comparatively unimportant character. "There was not one case of illicit distillation, a pretty satisfactory proof that that baneful traffic has been nearly extinguished in this district of the Highlands."

October 6.—A requisition, signed by three hundred persons, described as influential merchants and other inhabitants of Liverpool, was presented to Mr Charles Grant asking him to allow himself to be nominated as a candidate in room of Mr Huskisson. A deputation from Liverpool came to Inverness to present the requisition. Mr Grant was deeply gratified by the invitation, but declined to sever himself from the county of Inverness.

Ibid.—A letter is published from a young man in Quebec, one of the Sutherland emigrants who sailed from Cromarty in May. The vessel arrived at Quebec on the 8th of August, after a tedious passage of ten weeks, caused by contrary winds which prevailed from the time she left Cromarty. "Nearly the whole of the passengers, about 220 in number, were attacked by a severe fever owing to bad water. The water had been put into palm-oil casks, or some other obnoxious stuff was in them formerly, and we could neither use it for tea, coffee, or anything else, and of which we got a very small allowance. We lost nine passengers in all." Most of the passengers went up country on their arrival, but the writer and some others stayed in Quebec, and obtained employment there. He mentions that the vessel which sailed from Cromarty about three weeks after them arrived at Quebec on "the following day," presumably the 9th. He also states that about 38,000 emigrants had arrived that season, most of them Irish.

Ibid.—At a County Meeting, Sheriff Tytler brought forward suggestions for a new gaol and court-house, and proposed that a special meeting should be called to consider the situation on the 14th of December, as it was probable that the Lord Advocate's Gaol Bill would then be before them. This was agreed to. During the next few weeks the bill was produced, and was discussed at meetings in Inverness and other burghs.

October 13.—There is a memoir of Colin Mackenzie of Portmore, one of the Principal Clerks of the Court of Session, quoted from the "Edinburgh Weekly Journal," and said to be written by Sir Walter Scott. Portmore was a grandson, through his mother, of Mr Colin Mackenzie of Kilcoy.

Ibid.—"The Belgians have obtained what they contended for so vigorously and pertinaciously, the separation of Belgium from Holland."

Ibid.—A correspondent gives an account of the scenes he had witnessed in 1826 at Loch-mo-Naire, a sheet of water five miles from the mouth of the river Naver, in Sutherland, supposed to have virtue in the curing of diseases and of lunacy. The writer states that hundreds repaired to this loch on the first Monday of every quarter. On the occasion in question about a hundred assembled on the Sunday night preceding, and kept themselves warm round a large heap of burning peats. Men, women, and children were among the gathering. As soon as the advent of Monday was announced, they gave a simultaneous shout, stripped without ceremony, and each throwing a piece of money into the loch, plunged into the water. "They dive thrice, during each of three rounds, after which they dress and away in procession to the further end of the loch, where they gather some weed which alone gives effect to the operation just performed. When a sufficient quantity of the weed had been collected, we again moved slowly in procession round the enchanted loch three times." Bathing in this loch continued to be resorted to as a cure until a much later date than above-mentioned. An account of an incident of the kind appears in the "Courier" in August 1871.

October 20.—"A meeting of the inhabitants of the burgh of Dingwall was held on Saturday last, for the purpose of considering the subject of Parliamentary Reform. Sir Francis Mackenzie of Gairloch, Bart., was unanimously called to the chair. Resolutions were passed condemning the present system of representation as calculated to promote the interests of certain individuals, orders, and classes, at the expense and to the detriment of the great body of the people, and calling upon every loyal individual desirous of preserving peace, property, and social order, to use his best exertions to obtain such a reform of the House of Commons as would render its members the real, impartial, and disinterested representatives of the people."

Ibid.—There is a notice of the death of Donald Munro, a catechist in Skye, who seems to have been a remarkable man. He was quite un-

- educated, and lost his eyesight at the age of fourteen. He possessed, however, an extraordinary memory, and acquired such a knowledge of the Scriptures that it is said he could repeat verbatim the whole of the New Testament and the greater part of the Old. "His talent for exposition was such that a gentleman from another country, himself no mean judge, said he never heard anyone expound the Scriptures like him. In private life he was as amiable as in his public capacity he was useful."
- October 27.—Mr Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth was elected Provost of Dingwall.—In a previous issue it was stated that Sir William Gordon-Cumming of Altyre was elected Provost of Nairn.
- November 10.—The opening of Parliament led to keen discussions on the state of the country. The Duke of Wellington announced himself an uncompromising foe of Parliamentary reform.
- Ibid.—A panic occurred in the Parish Church of Lochbroom on a Communion Sunday, resulting in injury to many persons. The commotion was caused by a person subject to epileptic fits. The church was a large one, and it is said that the congregation numbered nearly 2000. One man subsequently died from his injuries.
- November 24.—The Government was defeated on a motion in the House of Commons for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the Civil List. The majority against Ministers was 29. "In one grand point the dissolution of the Duke's Ministry differs from all previous ones—it has been brought about solely by public opinion." Earl Grey formed a new Administration. Mr Charles Grant, member for the county of Inverness, became President of the Board of Control. Brougham became Lord Chancellor.
- December 1.—"We are truly glad to see the feeling of cordiality and confidence with which the new Ministry is hailed by the nation." This is the beginning of an editorial article. No disclosure of the intentions of Ministers on the subject of Reform had yet been made, but petitions in favour began to flow into Parliament.
- Ibid.—There had just been published at Inverness the Gaelic songs of William Ross, who has been described as "one of the sweetest minstrels the Highlands have produced." He was born in the parish of Strath, Isle of Skye, in 1762, but was partly educated in Forres, and in early life accompanied his father, a pedlar, in his wanderings through the High-

lands and Lowlands. His mother was a daughter of Piobare Dall, a celebrated blind piper of Gairloch. According to the paragraph in this issue, Ross became a schoolmaster in his native parish; but whether this was so or not, he certainly became schoolmaster in the parish of Gairloch, Ross-shire. He died prematurely at the age of 28. His songs floated in the memories of the people until they were collected by Mr John Mackenzie of Inverewe, and published in this year, 1830.

Ibid.—A terrific gale occurred in November, in which many vessels were wrecked.

December 8.—Six criminal cases were tried at Inverness the previous week before the Sheriff and a jury. The cases occupied the Court two days.

December 15.—A number of gentlemen favourable to Parliamentary Reform met in the Caledonian Hotel—Mr John Mackenzie, banker, in the chair. A requisition was drawn up to the Provost asking him to call a public meeting. The Provost declined to call a meeting on the ground that the question had better be left in the hands of the Government. The committee accordingly resolved to call a meeting on their own account.

December 22.—There is a long report of the meeting held in behalf of Parliamentary Reform. Mr John Mackenzie, banker, was in the chair. Although a burgh meeting, several county gentlemen were present, including Mackintosh, yr. of Mackintosh, Mr Fraser of Abertarff, Captain Fraser of Balnain, Mr Fraser of Torbreck, Mr Mackintosh, yr. of Geddes, Captain Mackay of Hedgefield, and Mr Macdonald of Ness Castle. Among the speakers were some of the above-mentioned gentlemen, as also Mr Macandrew, solicitor; Bailie Cumming, Mr Cameron, solicitor; Mr George Mackay, merchant; Mr Thomson, banker; Mr Adam, rector of the Academy; and Dr Nicol.

Ibid.—The death is recorded of the Rev. James Smith, minister of Avoch, in the 73rd year of his age and the 44th of his ministry. He is highly spoken of, especially as a pastor.

December 29.—Public meetings in favour of Reform were held at Dingwall and Elgin. At the Dingwall burgh meeting the Provost, Mr Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth, presided; at the county meeting, Sir George Mackenzie of Coul. At the Elgin county meeting Sir Thomas Dick Lauder presided. At the Elgin burgh meeting Mr W. Robertson of Auchin-

roath was in the chair, and Mr Isaac Forsyth was the chief speaker. A meeting was also held at Forres, at which Mr Alexander Whyte, merchant, presided. A large number of Ross-shire proprietors took part in the Dingwall county meeting.

No. VII.

In the year 1831 the attention of the nation was absorbed by the Reform Bill. The measure was introduced into the House of Commons by Lord John Russell on 1st March. It was of a wider character than Reformers expected, and was yet a solid and well-balanced scheme. Very small boroughs were to be cut off, large towns to be enfranchised. The right of voting was given in boroughs to householders rated for £10 rental; in counties to copyholders paying £10 a-year and leaseholders paying £50. The number of members of the House of Commons was to be reduced from 658 to 596. The struggle came on the second reading, which was carried by a majority of only one vote—302 to 301. "This victory," says Molesworth, "was in many respects worse than a defeat. It obliged the Government to go on with the bill with a moral certainty that it would be so mutilated in Committee as to render its abandonment necessary. And notice was given of a variety of motions calculated to interfere with the progress of the measure. One of the most plausible of these motions, and one that was subsequently conceded, was made by General Gascoyne, who moved that it was the opinion of the House that the total number of knights, citizens, and burgesses returned to Parliament for England and Wales ought not to be diminished, on the plausible ground that it was desirable not to alter the relative proportion of members returned by the three Kingdoms. As this was the first of the series of motions, the Government, notwithstanding its apparently harmless character, determined to join issue upon it, and were defeated by a majority of eight. It was manifest that to prolong the struggle after this defeat would be a waste of time and energy, and would only serve to help the Opposition in playing their game of delay. Ministers had already hinted that an adverse decision on this question would force them to appeal to the nation. It was now resolved that the appeal should be made at the first moment that the state of public business would allow. The King was reluctant to agree, but at length consented, and Parliament was dissolved. The country rang with the cry, 'The bill, the whole bill, and nothing but the bill.'"

The second half of 1831 was politically very

stormy. The new Parliament was opened on June 21st, and on June 24th the second Reform Bill was introduced. The Government was now supported by a strong majority. The division on the second reading, which took place on 7th July, gave Ministers a majority of 136. Long discussions took place in Committee, and it was not until the 22nd of September that the measure got through the House of Commons. The final division "that the bill do now pass" was taken at five o'clock in the morning, with the following result:—For the bill, 345; against, 239; majority in favour, 106. The measure had next to run the gauntlet of the House of Lords. The division on the second reading occurred on 8th October, and was adverse to the bill, the majority against being 41. The news created a fever of excitement in the country, and led to violent scenes, the most serious of which were the memorable riots at Bristol. After a short prorogation, Parliament reassembled on 6th December, and on the 12th, Lord John Russell brought forward the third Reform Bill. The second reading was carried by a majority of 162, and Parliament adjourned till the 17th of January. The year came to a close amidst general anxiety and unrest. In addition to the political troubles, Asiatic cholera was spreading throughout the land.

From the "Inverness Courier."

1831.

January 5.—The editor expresses his gratification at the increased circulation of the paper. "About twenty-four years ago," he says, "it was thought a bold undertaking to establish a newspaper in Inverness. Our Northern countrymen were content to derive their political information from Edinburgh or Aberdeen, and could not imagine whence a periodical press in the heart of the Highlands could possibly draw sustenance and support. The result has triumphantly answered these doubts. Two papers now issue weekly from the capital of the Highlands; another has been established in Elgin, a third paper has been added to Aberdeen, and various additions have lately been made to the Edinburgh press. We have not, therefore, risen on the ruin of our contemporaries. Our success has been commensurate with the improvement of the country in all its social arts and relations—in its agriculture, fisheries, trade, and commerce—with

the diffusion of knowledge and the increased means of communication throughout all parts of the Kingdom." He adds that some portion of the recent increase may also be attributed to the striking events which had lately taken place throughout all parts of the Kingdom.

Ibid.—On Thursday, the 30th ult., Mr Charles Grant, who had vacated his seat on accepting the office of President of the Board of Trade, was re-elected member for the county of Inverness without opposition. At the meeting of freeholders Mr Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch was in the chair. The motion for the election of Mr Grant was made by Mr Fraser of Lovat and seconded by Mr Grant of Glenmoriston.

Ibid.—There is a long report of what was known as the Belladrum cause. Mr John Stewart, M.P., purchased the estate of Belladrum in 1826 for £80,000. The question at issue, which was tried before the Lord President and a special jury, was whether the pursuer, Mr Stewart, was induced by misrepresentation to enter into the said agreement. A note of particulars had been furnished to the pursuer, and these, it was said, were incorrect. The jury found for Mr Stewart, but he appears to have retained the estate.

January 12.—There is a long report of the second trial of the Dundonnell cause, which came off before the Lord President and a jury in the Court of Session. The deceased proprietor had left the estate away from his brother, the natural heir. The question was whether the testator was mentally capable of making a will; and further, whether his brother-in-law, Roy, to whom he left the estate, had interfered unduly in the transaction. By the verdict of the jury the will was reduced, and the brother declared the heir. It appears, however, that the brother was financially ruined by the litigation in the case, and the property had to be sold in 1835.

Ibid.—Meetings were held at Nairn and at Tain in favour of Parliamentary Reform.

Ibid.—A communication from Hugh Miller, which forms part of his *Traditions of Cromarty*, appears in this issue. Other chapters followed in subsequent issues.

January 26.—A Reform meeting was held at Wick, Captain Macdonald of Shebster in the chair. "The Chairman read an official letter from the Sheriff-Substitute of the county, intimating to the movers and promoters of the meeting that they were taking upon themselves a high responsibility in calling into action a power which they had no means of

controlling; and that as such meetings could be legally and constitutionally called by Magistrates alone, which had not been done in this instance, they would be held responsible for the consequences. The Chairman expressed his astonishment at such a letter having been written." Resolutions in favour of Reform were agreed to.

February 2.—Four threatening letters signed "Swing" were received by prominent persons in Inverness, written, it was said, in consequence of the scarcity of meal, caused by extensive exportation from the North. A placard headed "Meal Mob" was also affixed to the wall of the Parish Church, calling on the people to turn out on Tuesday night. The Magistrates took precautionary measures, and no movement occurred. A reward of twenty guineas was offered for the discovery of the authors of the letters and placard.

Ibid.—Died, at Kitality, Mr Donald Fraser, parochial schoolmaster, aged 89. He had held office for nearly seventy years. At the age of 18 Mr Fraser married a girl of 15, and his wife survived him. They had numerous descendants.

February 9.—At an Inverness county meeting, resolutions were adopted in favour of the erection of a new Court-house and gaol. A committee was appointed to confer with the Magistrates of the burgh, and to correspond with conveners of other counties. At the same meeting Sheriff Tytler proposed resolutions in favour of the abolition of the tax on candles, which was oppressive to the poor, and produced only about £400,000 to the national revenue.

Ibid.—The winter was severe. There was a heavy snow-storm. One day no less than five London and three Edinburgh mails were due.

February 23.—A meeting of the proprietors of kelp estates in the Hebrides and West Coast of Scotland had been held at Edinburgh for the purpose of memorialising the Board of Trade on a recent order in Council which reduced the duty on barilla from £5 to £2 per ton, a reduction which they apprehended would lead to the entire extinction of kelp manufacture in Scotland. It was stated that the inhabitants of North Uist, South Uist, and Benbecula numbered about 12,500 persons, and that 7000 or 8000 had no other means of support than the gathering of kelp.

March 2.—There was at this time a Coursing Club in Sutherland. Its doings are reported in this issue.

Ibid.—"A Sunday School was lately established

in Grantown by the Rev. Peter Grant, Baptist minister, which is attended by nearly all the youth of the town, and is conducted in a very superior manner." The Rev. Peter Grant was the author of some fine Gaelic hymns.

March 9.—The Reform Bill was introduced by Lord John Russell into the House of Commons on 1st March. Nine columns of the paper are appropriated to a report of the debate.

March 17.—The first reading of the Reform Bill was acquiesced in without a division. "Meetings in favour of the large and liberal measure of Government," it is stated, "are spreading in all parts of the country—north as well as south. Nairn, Dingwall, and Tain have already met to congratulate Ministers and the country on the subject, while Inverness comes forward on Saturday. The freeholders of Ross-shire assemble on the 24th inst. We never recollect a public measure on which there was so much unanimity of sentiment."

i Ibid.—At a meeting of the Directors of Tain Academy, Mr John Noble was elected Rector.

March 23.—On the previous Saturday a public meeting was held in the Court-House at Inverness to express approval of the Reform Bill. Mr John Mackenzie, banker, was in the chair, and the speakers were mostly the same as at the previous Reform meeting. "In order to defray the necessary expenses, a shilling each was charged for admittance at the door, and hence perhaps the attendance was more respectable than numerous. A considerable proportion, however, of our townsmen was present, and the utmost loyalty and unanimity pervaded the meeting." The text of the Reform Bill is printed as a supplement to the issue.

Ibid.—A new coach, the Defiance, is announced as about to start between Inverness and Aberdeen. The running was to commence on 4th April. "The guards and coachmen, who drive throughout, will be distinguished by crimson coats."

March 30.—The second reading of the Reform Bill was carried in the House of Commons, but only by a single vote. The figures were—For the bill, 302; against, 301.—A meeting of county gentlemen at Tain petitioned against the bill. A meeting of Easter Ross farmers, held at New Tarbat, passed resolutions in favour of the measure. Similar resolutions were passed at a meeting in Stornoway.

April 6—Inverness was brilliantly illuminated on Monday night in commemoration of the second reading of the Reform Bill. The measure continued to excite local discussion. At a county meeting in Inverness, Sheriff

Tytler presided, and various views were expressed on details. A resolution was adopted by a majority questioning the propriety of giving votes to tenants in counties. At a county meeting in Dingwall, Mr Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth moved resolutions approving of the Ministerial plan of Reform. Mr Mackenzie of Ord moved a resolution declaring the bill too sweeping and partial. The amendment was carried by 18 to 14.

April 20.—Sir Francis A. Mackenzie, Bart. of Gairloch, sent £100 worth of potatoes to his tenantry on the West Coast. The previous year's crop had been destroyed by wet.

April 27.—Parliament was dissolved on the 23rd.

An editorial note says—"The votes of the Scots representatives on the Reform Bill were as follows:—For the bill, 16; against it, 25; majority against, 9. Four members were absent, namely, the members for Banffshire, Ross-shire, Dumfries Burghs, and Inverness Burghs. The Government were defeated on a motion by General Gascoyne, that the total number of members in the House of Commons ought not to be diminished. The vote stood—For the motion, 299; against it 291; majority, 8."

May 4.—At an Inverness-shire county meeting, it was reported that the Duke of Gordon had agreed to sell the Castlehill for the erection of a new jail and Court-House, the price to be thirty years' purchase at £11 per annum. The meeting agreed to the terms, and thanked the Duke.

Ibid.—Colonel Baillie of Leys intended to contest the county of Inverness as an anti-reformer, but finding the majority of the freeholders in favour of the measure, he withdrew. Colonel Baillie sat in the previous Parliament for the Inverness Burghs, but Major Cumming Bruce had secured the votes of Nairn and Forres, and Nairn was on this occasion the returning burgh.—Mr J. E. Baillie was returned as one of the members for Bristol. Sir Hugh Innes of Lochalsh, a supporter of the bill, succeeded Lord Francis Gower in Sutherlandshire.

May 18.—Mr George Sinclair, yr. of Ulbster, was elected for the county of Caithness. He was in favour of the Reform Bill.

May 25.—On the previous Monday Major Cumming Bruce was elected member for the Inverness District of Burghs. Captain Rose, Commissioner for Nairn, proposed the Major, and the other Commissioners, Provost Gordon for Forres, Provost Macfarquhar for Fortrose, and Provost Robertson for Inverness, concurred.—Sir William Gordon-Cumming of Altyre was

chosen member for the Elgin District of Burghs. Mr James Loch was re-elected for the Northern Burghs.

Ibid.—There was a sharp contest for the county of Cromarty between the Reform candidate, Mr Macleod, yr. of Caddboll, and Mr Davidson of Tulloch, who stood as an anti-Reformer. The votes stood 8 to 7, the majority of one being in favour of Tulloch.

June 1.—On Friday, 27th ult., Mr Charles Grant was elected, without opposition, as member for the county of Inverness. Mr Fraser of Lovat was in the chair. The member was nominated by Mr Grant of Glenmoriston, seconded by Chisholm of Chisholm. Mr Grant delivered a long and eloquent speech in favour of Reform. He spoke of the sympathy of the freeholders of the county with the cause. "He could not but be struck with the contrast betwixt the circumstances under which they were then met and those presented a few months ago. At the latter period he was compelled with lance in rest to descend to the struggle; now he had not to join in the battle, but to celebrate the victory." At the close of the meeting, in the Court-House, the member was met outside by a great gathering of people, who greeted him with acclamation. The incorporated trades, wearing their insignia, formed a procession with flags flying. A subscription had been set agoing by a zealous friend of the Ministry, for the purpose of providing a handsome new chair, in which the member was now installed, and carried up the Haugh, and down Castle Street and Church Street. As Mr Grant was borne along, he was saluted at every window with cheering and waving of handkerchiefs. When the procession reached the house of Mr Edwards, Sheriff-Substitute, where Mr Grant was staying, he was carried under a triumphal arch, and the chair was set down safely on the steps at the door. There the member addressed the people, thanking them for the honour, and applauding their zeal in the cause of reform. "He drew a sort of parallel between the progress of the Reform Bill and his progress in the chair through the streets, which excited immense cheering and laughter. Both, he said, had exhibited occasional deviations and declensions, but still they went forward, borne along by a generous and united people." In the evening Mr Grant entertained a company of 150 in the Northern Meeting Rooms.

Ibid.—The election for the county of Ross took place the previous week. There were three

candidates, namely, Mr Mackenzie of Kilcoy, Mr Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth, and Sir Francis Mackenzie of Gairloch. Sir Francis, however, had been called away by the death of a near relative, and withdrew from the contest. The vote finally stood 28 for Seaforth and 21 for Kilcoy, the former being thus elected. An editorial note says that the result of the Ross-shire election had occasioned some surprise, as Seaforth had come prepared for defeat. The friends of Sir Francis Mackenzie, however, threw their votes for Seaforth. The three candidates were favourable to Reform, so that the contest was more personal than political. Seaforth, however, was regarded as the leading Reformer. "But for the unlucky absence of one of Mr Macleod of Cadboll's voters, which threw the county of Cromarty into the hands of an anti-Reformer, we should have been able to boast that every county north of the Highland border was consecrated to Reform." In Scotland 24 supporters of the bill were returned and 21 opponents.

Ibid.—At a meeting of the Gaelic Church, it was resolved to establish a Mechanics' Institute in Inverness. Mr Charles Grant, M.P., was in the chair, and Dr Nicol was the leading speaker.

June 8.—The Northern Missionary Society met at Inverness, Rev. Mr Macdonald, Ferrintosh, preaching in English, and Rev. Mr Kennedy, Redcastle, in Gaelic. Collection at the gate, £44 6s; and with sums received from other sources, the total was £64 8s.

June 22.—A contract had been completed for paving High Street and Church Street, Inverness. The centre of the streets was to be paved with dressed granite stones, and the footways with Caithness flags. "Common sewers, with collateral drains, are also to be constructed in the most efficient manner."

Ibid.—Cromarty Bay was, by order in Council, appointed one of the quarantine stations for cholera, which was now beginning to excite apprehension.

June 29.—The new Parliament had assembled, and the Reform Bill had been brought in and read a first time.

Ibid.—It is stated that Dr A. Bell had resolved to bestow on Inverness, as upon Edinburgh and Aberdeen, one-twelfth of a donation of £120,000, three per cent. Bank annuities, for the purposes of education.

July 6.—The condition of the poor in the western islands was at this time wretched. "A more deep and universal distress prevails

on that coast than was ever before remembered. In fact the whole of the peasantry, with the exception of those who have got cattle and can subsist on milk, are in a state of the most lamentable want and destitution. Their best food consists of shell-fish and a kind of broth made of seaweed, nettles, and other wild plants, into which is infused a small sprinkling of oat-meal. The immediate cause of the present famine is the circumstance of the poor people having, from necessity, sold their potatoes to the natives of the mainland in Gairloch, Kintail, and Lochalsh; and thus deprived of their main support, and having exhausted their little stock of money, they are left literally destitute."

Ibid.—"Died at Midclova, parish of Kildrummy, on the 26th May last, James Ronald, in the hundredth year of his age. He was the only person in the district who had a distinct recollection of the years 1745 and 1746, and often mentioned having seen Glenbucket marching his regiment in spring 1746 past the school of Auchindoir, on their route to the fatal battle of Culloden."

July 13.—The second reading of the Reform Bill was carried by a majority of 136, namely, 367 for and 231 against.

Ibid.—The population of the town of Inverness, according to the census taken this year, was 9663; of the parish outside the town, 4661; total, 14,324. This showed an increase of 2060 on the population for town and parish in 1821.

Ibid.—A scheme was advertised for building a new bridge across the River Findhorn, near Forres, in place of the bridge destroyed by the great flood of 1829. The plan was to raise a sum of £4500 by shares or debentures, on the security of pontages. The trustees were empowered to take this course by Act of Parliament. In the present issue subscriptions to the amount of £4100 are announced.

July 20.—The Inverness Wool Market was now held in the second week in July. The Market this year showed a rise of about 4s per head on widders, and from 80 to 100 per cent. on wool. Cheviot widders fetched from 18s to 25s; ewes from 9s to 13s; lambs from 7s to 8s; cross widders fetched from 17s to 19s 6d; ewes 7s to 9s; lambs 4s to 6s 9d; blackfaced widders fetched from 13s to 17s; hogs 9s; ewes 5s to 7s; lambs 5s to 6s 6d. Cheviot wool 17s to 20s 6d; ditto, unwashed, 16s; cross wool 13s 6d to 14s 6d; ditto, unwashed, 12s to 13s; blackfaced, per double stone, 15s to 17s. In course of the Market a large meeting

was held to consider the disadvantages created by the shutting up of the old drove roads and the exaction of tolls. The tolls were a burden, and the hard turnpike roads caused a disease called "trembling" among sheep. Mr Sellar, Morvich, proposed that means should be taken to promote the export of sheep by steam. This met with approbation, but a committee was appointed to obtain further information and consider the whole subject. It was mentioned that the Marquis of Stafford had ordered that no toll should be erected on the Sutherland property.

Ibid.—The following advertisement may be quoted :—"Colonel Grant, having found it necessary to give a jubilee to the game on the Seafield and Grant estates, requests that no gentlemen will apply for leave to shoot or course on any part of the property, either in the Highlands or Lowlands, during the present season, as it must be refused. All former permissions are hereby withdrawn."

July 27.—About £5000 has been subscribed in shares for the new Findhorn Bridge, "of which sum the ladies of Forres and its neighbourhood have advanced nearly £1000, or one-fifth."

August 3.—The Reform Bill made slow progress in Committee, as the following sentences show : "The Reform Bill proceeds at a snail-like pace. It literally 'drags at each remove a lengthening chain.' Schedule A was bad enough, but B appears to have been fully as hard to digest. By dint of close application and late hours, however, something has been done beyond the everlasting talk of Sir Charles Wetherell and his small phalanx."

Ibid.—A few days previously, as Mr James Macpherson, farmer at Calder Bracklich, on Lord Cawdor's property, was digging a new drain, he found a bronze axe about 8 inches long. On the centre of the weapon was the figure of a heart. The relic came into the possession of Captain Shaw, Culblair. A fine spear of the same metal was found some time before on the property of Mr Gollan of Gollanfield.

August 10.—"An unusual number of strangers and tourists have, within the last eight or ten days, passed through Inverness, and are at present exploring the scenery of the Highlands." One of the visitors was supposed to be the Duchess d'Angouleme, travelling incognito.

Ibid.—An old man named John Macpherson, living at Grulla, in the Isle of Skye, was said to have reached the age of 108 years. His faculties were active, his memory unimpaired. "He remembers Prince Charles Stewart after

the battle of Culloden disguised as a female, and going under the name of Morag, in company with Flora Macdonald."

August 24.—"At Regent Street, London, on the 10th inst., Sir Hugh Innes of Lochalsh and Coxton, Bart., M.P. for the county of Sutherland, in his sixty-eighth year." No memoir of the Baronet is given.

Ibid.—The Marchioness of Stafford undertook a tour through the most northerly part of her possessions, extending to Cape Wrath. "The whole of this remote district, known under the appellation of 'Lord Reay's Country,' has been opened up by means of roads and bridges just completed, and the Marchioness is the first of her noble family to traverse this new and vast addition to the territorial dominions of the house of Stafford."

August 31.—A correspondent gives an account of the new road made from Assynt to Durness in Sutherland. The tract is specially rough and rugged, yet by skilful embanking, blasting, and curvature, there was secured "what in the irregular parish of Eddrachilis is a strange anomaly—one of the most uniformly level roads in the North of Scotland." The road remains to the present time to testify to the truth of this description.

Ibid.—The Rev. Mr Kennedy of Keith came to Inverness to lecture in favour of temperance societies. He held two meetings, and at the close a temperance society was formed. The Rev. Mr Scott of the Secession Church and the Rev. Mr Kennedy of the Independent Church headed the list of members.

September 7.—"On digging for the formation of the new sewers and street pavements of Inverness, there was found this day in Church Street, almost seven feet below the surface, a very fine deer's horn, in excellent preservation."

September 14.—"As an appropriate prelude to the Coronation, the Reform Bill passed the Committee on Tuesday, the 6th inst. Clause sixty and last was announced amid loud cheering, Colonel Sibthorp alone standing up to reiterate his opposition to the measure." The Coronation took place on the 8th. It was celebrated with illuminations and dinners in the Northern towns. The Marchioness of Stafford gave a Coronation Ball at Golspie.

September 22.—The issue of the "Courier" was postponed for a day, in order to provide a report of the show of the Highland Society, which was held at Inverness for the first time on the 21st. The exhibition of live stock was held in the Academy Park, the hall of the Institution being used for seeds and plants. A

dinner attended by three hundred persons was held in the Northern Meeting Rooms—Sir Francis Mackenzie, Bart. of Gairloch, Convener of Committee, in the chair. Principal Baird, the chaplain of the Society, was present, and was one of the speakers.

Ibid.—At the election of Magistrates for the burgh of Inverness, Mr John Ross, banker, was chosen Provost. On the 14th inst. Mr Macleod, yr. of Caddboll, was elected member for the county of Sutherland in succession to Sir Hugh Innes, deceased.

Ibid.—“Three gentlemen, Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, Mr Charles Ross, advocate, and Mr Gibson Craig, jun., have been for the last two or three weeks engaged in fixing the limits of the several burghs in the North with a view to the regulation of the elective franchise under the Reform Bill. The above Commissioners, we understand, have been as far North as Kirkwall, in Orkney; and have been accompanied and assisted by Mr Niel Maclean, engineer, Inverness.”

Ibid.—“The Highland costume was worn by several members of the House of Commons at the Coronation, amongst whom were Sir William Cumming, Bart.; his brother, Mr Cumming-Bruce; Mr Duncan Davidson, M.P. for the county of Cromarty; and Mr Campbell, M.P. for Argyllshire.”

September 28.—In this issue Mr Carruthers intimates that the copyright of the “*Courier*” and the printing business attached to it had become his property. In asking for continued support from the public, he acknowledges with pride and gratification the encouragement which he had received during the previous three years. In view of the political changes that were going on, he laid stress on the old adage that “measures, not men, should be the standard of our judgment.” At the same time he pointed out that the chief merit of a provincial newspaper must always consist in fidelity and attention to local interests and occurrences. “For neglect on this head no other species of literary exertion can atone. Hence we wish to render our Paper not only a useful weekly miscellany of general intelligence, but a full and faithful register of the Highlands—advocating the interests, supporting the rights, and chronicling the news of the Highland counties.”

Ibid.—On the same date there is the report of the trial of Hugh Macleod for the murder of a pedlar, named Murdoch Grant, in the parish of Assynt on 19th March 1830. The prisoner was only in his twenty-second year, and had a fair measure of education. For a time he

had officiated as a schoolmaster. The pedlar carried a pack and money, which is said in the indictment to have amounted to £30 in bank notes and £6 in silver. He was killed with a blow from a hammer, and his body thrown into a loch. The body was not found until about six weeks afterwards. Suspicion fell on Macleod because his conduct had been odd at the time of the finding of the body, and because he had been spending money freely, although previously he was known to be poor and in debt. He was apprehended in May 1830, and from one cause or another lay in prison until September 1831, when he was finally brought to trial. There were two judges on the Circuit, Lord Moncrieff and Lord Medwyn. Mr Neaves was counsel for the prisoner. After a trial, which is reported at considerable length, Macleod was convicted, and sentenced to be executed on 24th October. He maintained a bold and callous demeanour until after his conviction, but next morning he broke down, and confessed the crime in presence of the Sheriff of Sutherland and Rev. Mr Clark, Inverness. He declared that no one participated in the murder, or had any knowledge of it, except himself.

Ibid.—In connection with the case there was a dream which still figures in tradition. It may be given here as it came out in the man's own evidence. "Kenneth Fraser, the Dreamer, was in the employ of John Macleod, tailor in Clachtoil, in the spring of 1830. Had some drink with the prisoner on 5th April, and saw with him £1 11s in money and a red pocket-book; prisoner said he got the money from Lochbroom, where he was a schoolmaster, but told witness to say nothing about it. They went about drinking for a day or two, prisoner paying all. Witness was at the loch searching for the pack this year. It was in April when a messenger came for him to search for it. It had been said that witness had seen in a dream where the pack was lying. He said so himself at Hugh Graham's, in Lynemore, and it was true. 'I was at home when I had the dream in the month of February. It was said to me in my sleep, by a voice like a man's, that the pack was lying in such a place. I got a sight of the place just as if I had been awake; I never saw the place before. The voice said in Gaelic, "The pack of the merchant is lying in a cairn of stones in a hole near their house." The voice did not name the Macleods, but witness got a sight of the ground, fronting the south, with the sun shining on it, and a burn running beneath Macleod's house. "I took

the officer to the place I had got a sight of. It was on the south-west side of Loch-tor-na-eigin. We found nothing there. We went to search on the south side of the burn. I had not seen this place in my dream. It was not far from the place seen in my dream that the things were found. There were five silk handkerchiefs lying in a hole." The dream may be accepted as genuine, but the explanation is probably simple enough. It will be observed that Macleod and Fraser went about drinking together about a fortnight after the murder. Macleod in his cups may have spoken and shown more than he intended. His companion did not take in the meaning at the time, but months afterwards it sprang to his memory in the form of a dream.

Ibid.—"The Northern Meeting, held last week, was well attended, but there was no race, as the patrons of the turf in the North are at present mostly absent pursuing their Parliamentary duties. Nearly all the principal families of the North, however, were present at the ball on Thursday night, and dancing was kept up with much spirit."

October 5.—Referring to the Scottish Reform Bill, the editor says:—"Our burgh member, Mr Cumming-Bruce, has given notice of his intention to move in Committee that Inverness shall have a representative to itself. Mr Bruce has also given notice of his intention to move for the continuance of the present mode of determining the election by a majority of the burghs in favour of the candidate, and not by a majority of the voters on the whole, taken collectively, so that Fortrose with half-a-dozen voters will rank as high as Inverness with three hundred. Neither of the hon. member's propositions appears to have excited the least interest here; the second, indeed, is repugnant to the whole spirit of the bill, and both, we conjecture, will fall still-born upon the House and the public."

Ibid.—On Thursday, the 15th ult., the Rev. James Gibson was ordained and admitted minister of the parish of Avoch.

October 12.—After a debate of five days the House of Lords, on the 8th inst., threw out the Reform Bill on the second reading by a majority of 41. The vote stood—In favour of the bill, 158; against, 199. The vote was received with anger and consternation. "The peace of the country is obviously bound up with the continuance of the present Ministry. If they resign and the opponents of the bill take their place, we shall in twenty-four hours have a national convulsion." The people were

counselled to observe the law, but to send up addresses to the King.

October 19.—A subscription was going on for erecting a suspension bridge over the River Ness at the upper island, to connect the walks on both sides of the island.—The office of Sheriff-Clerk of the county, long vacant, was filled up by the appointment of Patrick Grant, W.S.

Ibid.—A resolution of the Commons, expressing confidence in the Government, and pledging the House to support the Reform Bill, was carried by a majority of 131. The King also stood by his Ministers, and there was to be no dissolution. The public mind was accordingly becoming calmer. Numerous public meetings, however, were held throughout the country to protest against the action of the House of Lords.

October 26.—On the previous Monday Hugh Macleod was executed for the Assynt murder. The scaffold was erected on "that part of beach called the Longman," near Inverness. The Magistrates offered to convey him in a cart, but he preferred to walk. Macleod was led from the prison at half-past one o'clock. "He was habited in a long black cloak or gown, made for the occasion, and had on a white night-cap, with the halter round his neck, carried behind by the hangman. He was accompanied, by his own desire, on his right by the Rev. Mr Clark and Mr E. Davidson, schoolmaster; and on his left by the Rev. Mr Kennedy and Mr Mackenzie, shoemaker." The Magistrates, constables, and Inverness-shire Militia, formed part of the procession. The day was wet and boisterous. Macleod made a full confession, and addressed the multitude in Gaelic from the scaffold. A gathering of from 7000 to 8000 persons witnessed the execution. In the evening a sermon was preached on the subject by the Rev. Mr Clark. Macleod is described as a man of about five feet eleven inches in height, of a thin but active and muscular frame. There was nothing in his general appearance or deportment to indicate a criminal disposition.

Ibid.—"Died, at the Manse of Tain, on the 3rd inst., the Rev. Dr Angus Mackintosh, minister of Tain, in the 68th year of his age and 30th of his ministry."

November 9.—Cholera had appeared in Sunderland, and orders were received at the Inverness Custom-House to place all vessels arriving from that port under quarantine. A meeting of Magistrates, clergy, and medical gentlemen was held, and a local Board of Health was

constituted. The town was divided into ten districts, with a committee for each. The Magistrates resolved to issue a proclamation urging the necessity of removing all collections of manure and pigstyes.

Ibid.—Mr Wilderspin, who advocated a system of infant education, had recently visited the town, and a society was now formed for the establishment of an infant school. The object of the society was "the training of children from the age of 18 months to seven years on the plan of Mr Wilderspin's infant system."

Ibid.—There is a full account of the riots at Bristol, occasioned by the visit of Sir Charles Wetherell, one of the strongest opponents of Reform.

November 16.—A general meeting of freeholders, Commissioners of Supply, and heritors of the County of Inverness, met and voted an address to the King in support of the Government. They also expressed their abhorrence of recent outrages. Mr Fraser of Lovat was in the chair.

December 14.—Parliament was opened on the 6th inst. by his Majesty in person. The Royal Speech recommended careful consideration to measures of Reform, and spoke of the pressing importance of a speedy and satisfactory settlement of the question.

Ibid.—At a meeting of Inverness Town Council, it was resolved to contribute the sum of £1500 in aid of the new gaol and other buildings to be erected on the Castlehill.

December 21.—The Reform Bill had been again introduced into the Commons, and was under discussion on the second reading when the paper went to press. The majority for Ministers, as given in the next issue, was 162. The bill was substantially the same as the former measure.

Ibid.—"Some transfers of property have within the last eight or ten days taken place in the North. The Right Hon. Charles Grant, M.P., has sold the estate of Waternish, in Skye, to Major Allan Macdonald, for about £13,000. The estate of Dochgarroch, in this neighbourhood, has been purchased by Mr Baillie of Dochfour for £10,000, and we believe the estate of Corriemoney has been transferred to Colonel Pearce for £13,500. We may add that the whole of these properties are considered well sold."

December 28.—The Northern Institution opened its winter session on the 23rd inst. Among the gifts presented to it were the following:—An old Highland broadsword, found near the site of the hut in Torvuil of Lochaber, where

Prince Charles Edward was concealed in 1746 by the Clunes family, and supposed to have belonged to one of the party—from Colonel Cameron, Clunes. An original petition to the House of Lords, of the burgesses, heritors, and trades of Inverness, for a reform in the burgh, with their signatures annexed; no date, but about forty years old—from Mr D. Mactavish, solicitor, Inverness.

No. VIII.

The year 1832 saw the final passing of the Reform Bill, which gave the Parliamentary franchise to the ten-pound householders in towns, and to lease-holders paying fifty pounds rent in counties. The bill (which was the third introduced by Earl Grey's Government) had been read a second time in the House of Commons on 18th December 1831. Parliament reassembled on the 17th of January, and the bill rapidly passed through the Lower House. The question again was what would happen in the Lords. Early in April the second reading was carried in the Upper House, but only by the small majority of 9; and when the House met on the 7th of May, after the Easter Recess, an amendment as to the order of procedure was carried against the Government. Nothing remained for Earl Grey and his colleagues except to resign, or to obtain the consent of the King to a creation of new peers. The King accepted the resignation of Ministers. The Duke of Wellington attempted to form an Administration, but failed; and Earl Grey then returned to office, with authority to create as many peers as might be necessary to secure the passing of the bill. The Opposition, however, now recognising the inevitable, allowed the measure to go promptly through the Committee stage, and on the 4th of June 1832, the bill was read a third time in the House of Lords, 106 peers voting for it, and only 22 against it. This was the English bill. The Scottish and Irish bills had afterwards to be carried through, but the main measure having been passed, the others excited little controversy.

In the second half of 1832, there was a memorable visitation of cholera along the northern seaboard. Its ravages were specially fatal in the villages of Easter Ross, and only a degree less severe in the town of Inverness. Political excitement continued at the same time, and the first General Election under the Reform Act came off towards the close of the year.

From the "Inverness Courier."

1832.

January 4.—The dreaded cholera had now appeared at Haddington, in Scotland. Powers had been granted to Boards of Health by royal proclamation, and the Inverness Board resolved to apply for a commission. A fund of £100 had been collected. Returns of poor in the town reported 500 in destitute circumstances, and a much larger number requiring occasional aid.

Ibid.—"A splendid fete was given on Tuesday last at Tulloch Castle, Ross-shire, by Duncan Davidson, Esq., M.P., to a numerous party of friends. About sixty ladies and gentlemen were present. Dancing commenced at ten o'clock, an elegant supper was served up about one, and the festivities were continued for several hours afterwards."

Ibid.—The condition of the operative classes in Perth is reported as deplorable. "The number of the unemployed is daily increasing; and in Dunning, Auchterarder, and other manufacturing places in the county, there are, we are assured, not a few weavers in want of work."

January 11.—A public meeting was held under the auspices of the Inverness Board of Health to consider reports on the condition of the poor and the state of their dwellings. No less than 840 persons were represented as being in a state of great poverty, of whom 140 resided in the Green of Muirtown. The reports stated that the practice of keeping offensive manure in the close neighbourhood of dwellings was almost universal among the poor; that in some districts pigs were as numerous as dunghills, and a greater nuisance; that slaughter-houses existed in almost every quarter of the town; that numbers of the poor people lay on straw, which was too seldom removed; and that in many of the houses of the poor the windows did not admit of being opened, having neither sashes nor hinges. It was resolved to raise a public subscription to provide means for manure stances, for lime-washing and medicine, for food, clothing, straw for bedding, flannel belts, and a soup kitchen; and also, if necessary, for securing a cholera hospital.

Ibid.—It is stated that as a precaution against cholera every cottage in the county of Sutherland had been visited by district committees; that the wants of the poor inmates, both in clothing and food, had been liberally supplied; that the dunghills had been removed at least thirty yards from each house, and every

dwelling inside and out had been thoroughly cleaned and whitewashed.

Ibid.—There is half-a-column of notes on natural history from Cromarty, evidently written by Hugh Miller. They are marked by careful observation and power of description.

Ibid.—The Excise duty on candles of one penny per pound ceased on Saturday week.

January 18.—A cattle show was held at Dunvegan, Skye, on the 5th inst., in connection with a farming society in the Macleod country. The show of cattle numbered about 100.

Ibid.—"Died, at Forres House, on the 1st inst., Lady Gordon-Cumming, widow of the late Sir A. P. Gordon-Cumming, Bart.—On the 21st ult., at Inverness, Mrs Young, mother of Murdo Young, Esq., editor of the 'Sun' London newspaper." A tribute to the memory of Lady Gordon-Cumming appears on the 25th inst.

Ibid.—The commission for the trial of the Bristol rioters had terminated. "Five have been condemned to death, and a great number sentenced to transportation. The riots originated, perhaps, in political animosity; but it is proved beyond all doubt that they were protracted solely from a desire for plunder."

January 25.—Parliament resumed its deliberations on Tuesday, the 17th inst. Mr Croker is described as the most active leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons. Great interest was taken in the question whether the King would create peers to pass the Reform Bill in the House of Lords.

February 8.—Cholera was spreading in the Southern Counties of Scotland, and creating much alarm. A special meeting of Commissioners of Supply appointed a Board of Health for the county of Inverness, placing at its disposal a sum of £300, or an assessment of 1d per pound Scots on the valued rent. The proposed bill for erecting a gaol and Court-house was discussed, and it was resolved to send up the draft of the bill to a London lawyer. The bill proposed to assess land in the county in two-thirds of the expense, and property in the burgh in one-third. This caused dissatisfaction in the burgh. The estimated cost of the buildings was £22,000.

February 15.—A public meeting was called in Inverness to consider the Gaol Bill, but a letter was read from Mr Fraser-Tytler stating that the financial proposals had been postponed for the purpose of adjusting them in conference with the Magistrates and community of Inverness. A committee of burgh heritors was ac-

cordingly appointed to meet a county committee.

Ibid.—At the meeting of the Northern Institution, there was presented from the Rev. George Gordon, Elgin, a specimen of a plant then new to British flora, discovered by him near Rosehaugh. It was the "*Pinguicula Alpina*" of Linnæus. The Secretary also presented specimens of bitumen found in the neighbourhood of Dingwall.

Ibid.—The Government, by Royal Proclamation, appointed Thursday, 22nd March, as a General Fast in Scotland on account of the threatened spread of cholera.

February 22.—The cholera plague had broken out in London. Throughout the Northern Counties Boards of health were now established in the towns and many of the parishes. An unusual number of vagrants and beggars appeared to be in the Highlands, giving rise to uneasiness lest they should carry infection. The Magistrates and Sheriff of Inverness issued a proclamation "by tuck of drum" and advertisement, prohibiting any of the inhabitants from harbouring vagrants, and instructing constables to prevent them from entering the town.

March 7.—The foundation-stone of the Suspension Bridge over the Findhorn was laid on the previous Thursday with Masonic ceremonial. The brethren of three Mason Lodges took part, those of St Lawrence and St John's from Forres, and those of St John's from Dyke. The school children formed part of the procession. The foundation-stone was laid by Brodie of Brodie, Provincial Grand Master. From four to five thousand persons witnessed the ceremony.

March 28.—The Reform Bill had now passed the Commons. Mr Macaulay distinguished himself in all the debates on the bill, and spoke with his accustomed brilliancy on the third reading. "Mr Croker," we are told, "who follows Macaulay as his shade, attacked the bill in a clever and bitter speech." The bill was now before the Lords for the second time.

Ibid.—"Died, at Antigonish, Mrs Ann Chisholm, aged 98 years, a native of Strathglass, North Britain, leaving 112 grand and great-grand-children, of whom 103 are of the name of Chisholm, all living."

Ibid.—The following paragraph is quoted from the "*Elgin Courier*":—"The mania for emigration rages just now in this country to an unheard of extent. We believe more people have quitted, or intend quitting, Elginshire for America this spring than during the last ten

years. From the small village of Rothes alone, no fewer than sixteen intend sailing, very soon, in the same vessel for the western hemisphere."

April 11.—There were now three steamers in the Glasgow trade plying on the Caledonian Canal. The "Highland Chieftain" passed through the Canal to Cromarty and Invergordon. Some amusement was caused by the fact that the carrier between Inverness and Tain took advantage of the steamer on her first trip. "Man, horse, cart, and goods, were shipped at Muir-town Lock, and the Tain carrier was duly steamed to Invergordon."

April 18.—The second reading of the Reform Bill was carried in the House of Lords by a majority of nine. The result was waited throughout the country with great interest and anxiety. The news was first brought to Inverness by the guard of the Defiance Coach from Aberdeen, which arrived about an hour before the mail. When the latter came, confirming the intelligence, "cheers both loud and long were raised."

Ibid.—A school competition was held at Kingussie for prizes given by the Celtic Society for promoting education in Badenoch. There were 72 competitors drawn from six schools in the parishes of Kingussie, Inch, and Alvie. These schools were attended during the winter by 450 pupils. The competing contingents marched with pipers at their head, two of the schoolmasters and a considerable number of the competitors appearing in the Highland dress. The attendance of the public was so large that the proceedings had to be adjourned to the church. Mr Macpherson of Belleville was in the chair. The examination was conducted by the clergymen of the three parishes, but the prizes, 32 in number, were awarded by the votes of the gentlemen present. Previous to the examination, the meeting determined an honorary prize, to be given to the Highlander who had been in the habit most constantly of wearing the Highland dress of home-made tartan. The prize went to Robert Shaw, in the parish of Inch, aged 87 years.

April 25.—The editor makes some fun of the managers of the "Sun" and the "True Sun" newspapers, who had made superhuman efforts to carry, as far as Edinburgh, the news of the second reading of the Reform Bill in the House of Lords. "The henchmen of old, careering among our Highland vassals, with their gathering symbol, the Fierv Cross, were nothing to these ambassadors of the press, driving four-in-hand, with ribands flying and rosettes in their hats, to the tune of fifteen miles an

hour. What a contrast to the slow spread of intelligence in the days of our fathers! . . . Now every large town has its newspaper and every village its newspaper club; and such is the rapidity of our mails, and the excellence and universality of our roads, that the London journals of Monday evening—exclusive of all expresses—are read on the following Friday among the wilds of the Hebrides and at the Ultima Thule of John o' Groats."

Ibid.—An immense school of whales appeared off the coast of Lewis, near Stornoway. They were driven ashore by a troop of boats which put out from the harbour. Ninety-eight whales, some of them very large, were killed and sold by public roup.

May 2.—At a meeting of Inverness-shire Commissioners of Supply, Mr Patrick Grant was appointed County Clerk. The unsuccessful candidate was Mr Alexander Shepperd, and the vote stood 22 to 17.

May 9.—This number contains a sketch of the boundaries of the burghs in the Northern Counties as fixed by the Scots Reform Bill. It also states that two cases of cholera had occurred in the garrison at Fort-George.

Ibid.—The Rev. D. Mackintosh Mackay, late of Laggan, was inducted as minister of Dunoon on Thursday, 19th ult.

Ibid.—The Inverness Gaol Bill had now assumed a new complexion. A formal separation took place between the burgh and county. "It is now agreed that the county shall erect a Court-House and public offices at their own expense—the Magistrates of the burgh having no connection with them, and the question of erecting a new gaol or retaining the present one remaining entirely with the burgh. The county buildings will be constructed on an approved principle, after the design of Mr Burn, architect, and will, it is calculated, cost about £8000." Several of the county heritors protested against the scheme, but the bill was approved by a majority, and transmitted to the London solicitors.

May 16.—The news that Earl Grey's Ministry had resigned created consternation in the country. On an amendment to the Reform Bill in the House of Lords, they had been beaten by a majority of 35. A creation of peers or the resignation of Ministers then became inevitable. The King refused to create peers, and Ministers resigned. The Duke of Wellington was summoned to form a new administration.

May 23.—After various attempts to form an

administration, the Duke of Wellington was forced to abandon the task, and Earl Grey and his colleagues were again in office, vested with full powers to carry the Reform Bill. On the 22nd a great meeting was held in the Academy Park, Inverness, under the auspices of the Reform Committee. "This was the first open meeting ever held in Inverness for a political purpose, and will long be remembered by the inhabitants. A more imposing spectacle was certainly never before witnessed here. The Incorporated Trades and other public bodies, with their banners flying, and all arrayed in their best, were in attendance—most of the shops were shut, the streets and windows were thronged with spectators, and crowds of people arrived from the country. The Trades assembled on the Castle Hill, and exactly at 12 o'clock the music struck up, and the whole marched to the Caledonian Hotel, where the Reform Committee were assembled. The procession then proceeded to the Academy Park." The gathering was estimated as numbering from 8000 to 10,000. On the hustings were Mackintosh, yr. of Mackintosh, Fraser of Culbokie, Fraser of Abertarff, Fraser of Balnain, and prominent citizens. Mr John Mackenzie, banker, was called to the chair. The report of the speeches runs to over four columns.

May 30.—It is stated that most of the anti-Reform peers had absented themselves from the House of Lords, and that the Reform Bill was making rapid progress in Committee.

June 6.—"The English Reform Bill is now through the Committee, and was to be read a third time on Monday last. On Tuesday it was expected that the few verbal amendments proposed by the Lords would be adopted by the Commons, and that on Wednesday (this day) the bill would receive the royal assent." It was calculated that in ten days or a fortnight the Scots and Irish bills would also have passed through Parliament.

Ibid.—There is an interesting memoir, more than two columns in length, of Sir James Mackintosh, who died on the 30th May in the sixty-seventh year of his age. It is stated that in his speeches in the House of Commons Sir James was of the old school of rhetoricians. "He appealed to first principles, reasoned high of the eternal laws of truth and justice, and enforced his arguments in elaborate diction, and by repeated and various quotation. It was our fortune to hear him only once—during the stormy period of the trial of Queen Caroline—and his speech struck us as being exactly like

a well delivered essay of the Edinburgh Review. His manner was inelegant, but earnest and imposing, and his appearance commanded universal respect and attention."

June 13.—The English Reform Bill had at length passed the House of Lords and become law. The Scottish Bill was now passing through Parliament with but little opposition. "Major Cumming Bruce and a few others set up a claim for compensation to the proprietors of superiorities, for the loss they would sustain through the bill, but did not press the point to a division. We cannot see the slightest foundation in justice or equity for such a compensation. The proprietors of superiorities will not be denuded of their franchise, and undoubtedly the owners of boroughs in Schedule A of the English bill possessed a better right to be indemnified for their loss than our Scottish proprietors of paper votes. The inequality in the value of superiorities would also render compensation no easy task. In some counties the qualification sold for £100, and in others (as in Inverness) for £1000 or £1200. At what rate then was compensation to be given? The absurdity as well as cupidity of this unpatriotic objection prevented the House, as we have stated, from coming to a division on the subject."

Ibid.—Sir William Grant, late Master of the Rolls, died on Friday, 25th May, at Dawlish, in Devon.

Ibid.—The anniversary meeting of the Northern Missionary Society was held at Dingwall. Subscriptions and donations amounted to £47. A meeting of the same Society was held at Inverness: subscriptions and donations, £66 4s.

June 27.—There are many rumours as to candidates who are to come forward at the election to take place after the completion of the Reform Scheme for the three kingdoms. Major Cumming Bruce had already announced his intention to seek the suffrages of the new electors in the Inverness District of Burghs. He declared that though he had opposed the Government Bill he was not an anti-Reformer, and referred to his speeches in proof of the statement. Mr Charles Grant had an invitation to stand for Liverpool, but determined to stick to the county of Inverness, though he knew he would meet with active opposition. His brother, Mr Robert Grant, had been asked to stand for several constituencies, including the Inverness Burghs, but resolved to remain with Norwich.

July 4.—The cholera was on the increase in Eng-

land, and had also a strong hold of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Perth. Several cases had now appeared on board a Revenue cruiser at Cromarty.

July 4 and 11.—Both issues are filled with election news. Charles Grant and Macleod of Macleod were again in the field for the representation of the county of Inverness. Three candidates were canvassing the burghs, namely, Major Cumming Bruce, Mr John Stewart of Belladrum, and Colonel Baillie of Leys. Mr Stewart was the Reform candidate, and Mr John Mackenzie, banker, was Chairman of the Election Committee.

July 18.—The Reform Bill for Scotland passed the House of Lords on the 13th. At Nairn on the 12th there was a great Reform festival, consisting of a procession and dinner. The Nairn seamen turned out to the number of 150, a party of twenty in holiday garb drawing a yawl, which bore the Reform Bill, crowned by a large broom, spliced at the mast-head. The "broom" was in honour of Lord Brougham. There were twenty-one flags in the procession, each bearing an appropriate motto.

Ibid.—The Sheep and Wool Fair was held the previous week. In the price of sheep there was an advance of from fifteen to twenty per cent., which was partly attributed to the advancing prosperity of the country, and partly to the great mortality among sheep in England, which had occurred about two years before. The number of sheep in England was calculated at 25 millions, and no fewer than six millions were carried off by rot in 1830. There was a fall in the price of wool, but the deficiency in value was partly supplied by the excellence and abundance of the clip. The toll dues on sheep and cattle were again a matter of complaint, and the committee on the subject was reappointed. There was a talk about promoting a drove road, and more resting places for sheep were said to be required.

August 1.—The following curious announcement appears:—"We cannot forward a copy of the Reform Act to our correspondent in Skye for some weeks, till a carrier leaves Inverness."

Ibid.—It is announced that cholera had broken out in the village of Helmsdale, in Sutherland. The herring-fishing was going on, and the disease was brought by a boat from Prestonpans, in the Firth of Forth.

August 8.—"Death, which has lately been so busy in high places, has added another titled victim to its list—the young Duke de Reich-

stadt, son of Napoleon, died on the 22nd ult. The direct line of Napoleon is thus terminated."

Ibid.—Cholera was now spreading throughout the Northern Counties. It had appeared at Golspie, Portmahomack, Hilton of Cadboll, Dingwall, and Maryburgh. The outbreak at Helmsdale was severe. In subsequent issues there are reports of its ravages there and in the villages of Sutherland and Easter Ross.

August 22.—On the previous day there was a great procession of trades in Inverness to celebrate the passing of the Reform Bill. Flags and banners were numerous, and there were triumphal arches in High Street and Bridge Street. In the afternoon 350 gentlemen dined in the Northern Meeting Rooms—Mr Mackenzie, banker, in the chair.

August 29.—The cholera had at last entered Inverness, and within five days there were 17 deaths. One case was that of Skene Morrison, the guard of the north mail. "He was seized on his road from Tain, when within a few miles of Inverness, but kept his seat till the coach arrived here, a little before nine o'clock in the evening, when, after delivering the mail bags, he staggered home and expired in about four hours." The Board of Health was sitting, and the medical men of the town attended.

Ibid.—The passing of the Reform Act was celebrated by a procession at Forres. Sueno's Stone was decorated with evergreens, and a handsome flag streamed from the top.

September 5.—"There are 108 candidates in the field for the 53 seats in Parliament belonging to Scotland. All the counties are contested except Banff, Bute, Dumfries, Forfar, Kirkcudbright, Orkney, and Peebles, and all the burghs except Ayr and Dysart."

September 12.—On the 6th inst. Buchanan Macmillan, a gentleman well known to the mercantile community of London and to natives of the Highlands, died at the Inverness-shire residence of Mr Stewart of Belladrum. "Mr Macmillan was in his 74th year. He was born of humble parents in the glen of Urquhart; and at an early age removed to the metropolis, where, by active commercial pursuits, he realised a considerable fortune, which he seemed only to hold in fee for the benefit of his countrymen, and for enabling him to assist in works of utility and benevolence. Mr Macmillan was for a considerable period connected with the 'Sun' newspaper as printer and proprietor; and he also, we believe, at one time

held the lucrative office of King's printer. The love and honour of his native country was, with Mr Macmillan, a strong, active principle. . . . He was in thought, word, and deed a genuine Scotsman. His house, his purse, time and influence were always, even in his busiest days, at the command of his countrymen, and of all the Scottish charitable institutions in London he was the warm and steady supporter. During his latter years he occasionally visited the North, and delighted to renew his recollection of old scenes and old friends. Of the strength and vividness of these impressions we remember a striking instance. He took a gentleman who was in his company one day at Corrimony to point out to him the site of his father's hut. A few stones distinguished the place; there was a well near, a little up the brae, and the old man, dashing aside the fern and heath, filled a bottle which he had brought with him from his native spring. 'I shall take this with me to London,' he said, 'and if I die there the last draught I shall drink will be from this bottle.' It pleased Providence, however, to lengthen his span of life; he returned to London, visited the North again this season, and closed his eyes in peace and honour within a few miles of his native glen." A notice of Macmillan and his relatives appears in Mr Mackay's *History of Urquhart*, page 409.

Ibid.—The total number of cases of cholera in Inverness had now reached 273; deaths, 82. Among the victims was the Rev. Mr Findlater, minister of the Chapel of Ease (East Church), Inverness. "Mr Findlater was 45 years of age, 22 of which he had spent in the ministry, viz., eleven at Loch-Tay side, Perthshire, and eleven as pastor of the Chapel of Ease in Inverness. He was long subject to severe bilious and nervous attacks, but was in his usual health when seized with the calamity which hurried him to his grave. The rev. gentleman was warmly esteemed by his friends and parishioners. His style of preaching was clear, unaffected, and impressive." At the village of Inver, near Tain, it is reported that there had been 100 cases of cholera and 53 deaths. In the rural districts, near Inverness, the greatest alarm and apprehension prevailed. All intercourse, except of the most pressing kind, was interrupted, and the town markets were scantily supplied.

September 26.—Cholera was becoming milder in Inverness, but the ravages of the disease had been very severe. Total cases from the com-

mencement, 409; deaths, 136. "Dr George Forbes, the oldest medical practitioner in Inverness, was seized with cholera on Thursday evening, after attending his patients, and though every effort was made to arrest the progress of the disease, Dr Forbes died at eight o'clock on Friday morning." Dr Forbes was 66 years of age. The local Board of Health had been liberally supplied with funds by subscription to assist the poor. A Catholic clergyman from Keith, Rev. Mr Lovie, was successful in the treatment of cholera patients, first at Wick and afterwards at Inverness. The Inverness Board requested him to remain in the town for ten days. They also voted a donation of £10 for his services, but he handed the money over to the medical men to be distributed among the poor.

Ibid.—The death of Sir Walter Scott is announced, and there is a memoir, over a column in length, by the editor.—The old burghal system was still in existence, and the election of Magistrates and Council took place in the usual way. Mr John Ross was chosen as Provost.

Ibid.—"Some professional gentlemen from this place [Inverness] having occasion to visit Cromarty last week, were seized at the entrance of the town, and told that they must go to be smoked for the cholera, as they came from Inverness. They were accordingly conveyed to the seaside till they arrived at a wooden shed, where they were obliged to take off part of their clothes wash themselves with a preparation of chloride of lime, and then enter a place strongly impregnated with sulphur and other ingredients, where they were locked up and half-suffocated. Having undergone this salutary and rational process, the Invernessians were allowed to dress and depart." This incident is described at some length, and with quiet humour, in Hugh Miller's "Schools and Schoolmasters."

October 10.—There is a striking account of the introduction of cholera into the North of Scotland, and its ravages in Easter Ross, written by Hugh Miller. "In the month of July 1832," he says, "the disease was introduced by some South countrymen, fishermen, into the town of Wick, and a village of Sutherlandshire; and from the latter place, on the following August, into the fishing villages of the peninsula of Easter Ross. It visited Inverness, Nairn, Dingwall, Urquhart, and Rosemarkie, a few weeks after. In the villages of Ross the disease assumed a more terrible aspect than it had yet presented in any other part of Britain.

In the little village of Portmahomack one-fifth of the inhabitants were swept away; in the still smaller village of Inver nearly one-half. So abject was the poverty of the people that in some instances there was not a bit of candle in any house in a whole village; and when the disease seized the inmates in the night-time, they had to grapple in darkness with its fierce pains and mortal terrors, and their friends, in the vain attempt to assist them, had to grope round their beds. Before morning they were in most instances beyond the reach of medicine. The infection spread with frightful rapidity. In Inver, though the population did not much exceed a hundred persons, eleven bodies were committed to the earth without shroud or coffin in one day; in two days after they had buried nineteen more. Many survivors fled from the village, leaving behind them the dead and the dying, and took shelter, some in the woods and some among the hollows of an extensive track of sandhills. But the pest followed them to their hiding place, and they expired in the open air. Whole families were found lying dead on their cottage floors. In one instance an infant, the only survivor, lay grovelling on the body of its mother, wailing feebly among the dead, the sole mourner in the charnel-house of the pestilence. Two young persons, a lad and his sister, were seen digging a grave for their father in the church-yard of Nigg, and then carrying the corpse to it on a cart, no one venturing to assist them." Such is a contemporary account of the horrors of this painful time.

October 24.—The Rev. J. Macdonald, of Urquhart, preached in the Chapel of Ease for the benefit of the Society for improving Church patronage in Scotland. The collection amounted to £8 17s 5½d. The annual meeting of the Society was held, and resolutions passed in favour of delivering the Church from the grievances flowing from patronage.

October 31.—An article in this number describes the state of parties in the North, and the preparation made for electioneering contests. A few years before the prospect of a general election was regarded in Scotland with scarcely any interest. The question of burgh reform was generally held to be much more important, and in many places led to violent party collisions and expensive law-suits. When Parliamentary reform, however, came to the front, the subject was eagerly seized upon by the commercial and middle classes, and on the

passing of the Act they pressed forward to claim the franchise. In view of an early dissolution of Parliament, electioneering was now very active. "In no part of the Kingdom has this state of things more abounded than in this Northern division of the Empire. The grand source of disunion is undoubtedly the struggle between the friends and the opponents of the present Ministry. Mr Charles Grant, a Cabinet Minister, is opposed, on the broad principle of political hostility, by Macleod of Macleod. Mr Stewart-Mackenzie is opposed in Ross-shire by Mr Munro of Novar, partly on political grounds and partly from local motives. Mr Stewart of Belladrum, a decided adherent of the Government, disputes the Inverness District of Burghs with the present member, Major Cumming Bruce, the active, uncompromising opponent of the Reform Bill and the Ministry, and Colonel Baillie of Leys, an East India Director, contests the palm with both, chiefly because of his personal influence and his being a native of Inverness. The political bias and connections of the latter lean to the Tory side." The article goes on to say that Major Cumming Bruce had strong personal influence, independent of politics, in his family and in his position as Major of the Inverness-shire Militia. Colonel Baillie derived similar support from his friends in the Magistracy of the town and his personal acquaintance with the inhabitants. Mr Stewart stood wholly unconnected with local influence, and claimed the seat as an independent country gentleman, friendly to the principle of reform, which he advocated in a former Parliament as member for Beverley, in Yorkshire.

Ibid.—No case of cholera had occurred in Inverness for three days, and it was hoped that the disease had left the town. The total number of cases from the beginning on 24th August was 553, and deaths 175. "This is severe enough, but much less than has been experienced in many towns of similar extent in the South. Trade is again reviving here; our markets are attended, and, generally speaking, public confidence is restored." A proportion of cases had occurred in the village of Culcahock, arising, it was supposed, from the dampness of houses caused by a recent flood. A few cases occurred after this date in Inverness, but the plague, on the whole, had disappeared.

November 7.—Cromarty was clear of cholera. The number of cases had been over thirty; the number of deaths ten.

November 14.—A paragraph is given to a Gran-

town character, deceased, who was known as "Jamie Blin," or "the Solicitor-General of Grantown." He had been born almost blind, but he managed to find his way about, and wandered over the district between Grantown, Elgin, and Inverness. Jamie possessed a prodigious memory and an insatiable desire for political discussion, speechifying, and newspapers. His pockets were generally filled with news-sheets which he got other people to read for him. At the time of Courts of Justiciary and contested elections he was generally to be found in Inverness. "Throughout his whole life the memory of poor Jamie was most extraordinary. He could repeat speeches of an hour's length almost verbatim, after once hearing them; and as he generally copied tone and gesture as well as words, he appeared occasionally, when in the vein, a most imposing orator. His outer man, it is true, was seldom in keeping with the character he assumed; for Jamie was never solicitous about the business of the toilet, and his tattered vestments, with newspapers bulging out in all directions, sometimes contrasted strongly with his eloquent exordiums and perorations. In all parties the rustic politician was generally welcome, and it may be truly said that the stock of harmless mirth has in many districts been abridged by the death of the Solicitor-General of Grantown."

November 28.—A hot controversy had arisen between Seaforth and Hugh Ross of Glastullich in connection with the Ross-shire election. There are five columns of letters in this issue. A duel was threatened, but averted.

December 5.—On the previous Friday the Suspension Bridge over the Findhorn, near Forres, was opened with a procession of trustees and subscribers. Afterwards 105 gentlemen dined in the St Lawrence Masonic Lodge. Mr Fraser-Tytler, who declared the bridge open, was in the chair.

Ibid.—The dissolution of Parliament had been fixed for the previous Monday, and the writs were expected on the 6th in Inverness.

December 12.—The Northern Missionary Society held its anniversary meeting at Tain on the 21st ult. Collections, subscriptions, and donations amounted to £68 4s 8d.

December 19 and 26.—The nomination for the Inverness District of Burghs took place on the 17th. There were four candidates, namely, Major Cumming Bruce, Mr Stewart of Belladrum, Colonel Baillie of Leys, and Mr Robert Fraser of Torbreck (who appears to have come

on the scene unsolicited). The hustings were erected on the Exchange, and there was a crowded gathering in spite of unfavourable weather. The polling occupied two days (Thursday and Friday), and the result was the return of Colonel Baillie, who stood seven votes ahead of Mr Stewart. The total figures were as follows:—Colonel Baillie, 250; Mr Stewart, 243; Major Cumming Bruce, 192; Mr Fraser of Torbreck, 6. The scale was turned at the last moment in favour of Colonel Baillie by Major Cumming Bruce recommending his reserved voters to support that candidate. Major Cumming Bruce had his chief support in Forres, where he polled 88 votes.

December 26.—The nomination of the candidates for the county of Inverness took place on the 22nd. Mr Fraser of Lovat proposed Mr Charles Grant, and Mr Fraser of Culbokie seconded. Mr Mackintosh of Geddes proposed Macleod of Macleod, and Rev. Mr Smith, Urquhart, seconded. The result was not published until the next issue, when the figures were announced as follows:—For Mr Grant, 257; for Macleod, 213; majority for Mr Grant, 44.

Ibid.—The nomination for Ross-shire came off at Dingwall on the 24th. Mr Mackenzie of Kilcoy proposed Seaforth, and Mr Archibald Dudgeon, Arbol, seconded. Sir George Mackenzie of Coul proposed Mr Munro of Novar, and Mr Davidson of Tulloch seconded. The result as given in next issue was as follows:—Seaforth, 277; Novar, 152; majority for Seaforth, 125. The contests for the counties of Inverness and Ross had excited great interest, and in both cases the popular or Reform candidates were elected. "No constituencies in Scotland," says the editor, "will be better represented as regards public conduct or private character, general talent or Parliamentary experience. Seaforth has for nearly a quarter of a century supported those principles which have secured for him so triumphant an issue; and Mr Grant is known to the whole kingdom, not only as a Cabinet Minister, but for his enlightened views of national policy, his brilliant eloquence and extensive acquirements." Mr James Loch was re-elected member for the Northern Burghs without a contest.

No. IX.

In the year 1833 the Reform Government got to work with a new Parliament and a large majority. The number of subjects which Ministers undertook to handle created friction in its own ranks, and whetted the activity of the Opposition. Daniel O'Connell and his Irish followers were also particularly troublesome. The first session, however, saw a great deal of work accomplished. A measure was carried to put down excesses in Ireland; another to mitigate, or attempt to mitigate, the hostility against the Irish Established Church. Acts were passed dealing with the charter of the Bank of England, and remodelling the powers of the East India Company, the latter being deprived of its commercial monopolies. The important measure for the abolition of slavery in the British Colonies was carried through. A beginning was made with the beneficent factory legislation identified with the name of Lord Ashley, afterwards Lord Shaftesbury. The first step was taken towards the establishment of a national system of education in England by a grant of £20,000. A reduction in the advertisement duty was welcome to newspapers. Economists like Mr Joseph Hume were, however, annoyed by the meagre efforts at retrenchment in the expenditure. Locally, the sudden death of Colonel Baillie of Leys, the member for the burghs, led to a bye-election, in which Major Cumming Bruce was the successful candidate. It is rather curious that in the two elections after the passing of the Reform Act, candidates who had been known as anti-reformers were returned for the Inverness burghs. The columns of the "*Courier*" during the year were largely occupied with political dinners and speeches, which were important at the time, but for the reader of the present day have lost much of their interest.

The notes below will be read with interest as recording the beginning of Town Councils in their modern form. One of the first acts of the Inverness Town Council was to abolish the office of hangman, which appears to have existed in the burgh from time immemorial.

There is a full account of the hangman's perquisites, which must have given much annoyance in the collection.

From the "Inverness Courier."

1833.

January 2.—The result of the contest in the Elgin Burghs is announced. There were three candidates—Colonel Leith Hay, the Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie, and Mr Alex. Morison, yr. of Auchintoul. The first-named was elected, the figures being—Colonel Leith Hay, 343; Mr Holt Mackenzie, 223; Mr Morison, 112. Colonel Leith Hay had a majority of 112 on the gross poll.

Ibid.—Seaforth was entertained to a public dinner at Dingwall on the 31st ult. Mr Mackenzie of Kilcoy was chairman, and the croupiers were Mr Mackenzie of Muirton, W.S., and Captain Sutherland of Udoll. The dinner was in celebration of Seaforth's return as a member of Parliament.

January 9.—The Right Hon. Charles Grant was entertained to dinner at Inverness by a number of his supporters. Lovat was in the chair, with Mr Hugh Fraser of Eskadale and Mr David Sheriff, Barnyards, as croupiers. Colonel Baillie entertained from two to three hundred of his friends to a dinner in the Northern Meeting Rooms.

January 16.—Over six columns are devoted to the report of a dinner held in the Northern Meeting Rooms to celebrate the "Cause of Reform." About 250 were present. The rooms were decorated with laurels and evergreens, and portraits of Earl Grey, Lord Brougham, and Lord John Russell. The croupiers were Mr John Fraser, Church Street, Inverness; Mr Ketchen, Nairn; and the Rev. Mr Stark, Forres. In the following week there was a dinner at Nairn.

Ibid.—The following Note to the readers of the paper is an illustration of the difference between that day and this:—
"In consequence of the navigation of the Caledonian Canal having been interrupted by frost, a large package of stamps, which should have reached us on Saturday, has been detained about Fort-William. On this account we are compelled to print part of our impression on blanks, of which due ac-

knowledgement will be made to the Stamp Office."

Ibid.—The same issue contains the announcement, derived from a private source, that the Marquis of Stafford has received the title of Duke of Sutherland. At a party given by the King the previous week, his Majesty had proposed the health of "The Duke and Duchess of Sutherland." The "Gazette" notice appeared in the next issue. The announcement was received with great pleasure in Sutherland.

January 23.—"Mr Davidson of Cantray bet with Sir Francis Mackenzie that the former would run his gig mare in harness fourteen miles in the space of an hour. The ground fixed was the north mail road between Conon and Clachnaharry, and yesterday the time. Mr Davidson himself drove the animal, and she performed the task in three minutes less than the hour."

January 30.—Three columns are given to a report of rejoicings in Sutherland in honour of the Dukedom.

February 6.—There is an article on the burdens laid on newspapers, arising from a report that some relief was in contemplation. The "Courier" was still a sheet of four pages, five columns to a page, and the price was sevenpence, as it was of most other papers. Rumour pointed to a repeal of the Stamp-duty. "We have been so long accustomed," says the editor, "to the restrictive duty—so long in the habit of paying sevenpence for our newspaper—that so great a change seems at first sight to be wild and impracticable." There was at the time a duty of 3s 6d on all advertisements long and short. This duty the Chancellor of the Exchequer reduced in the next Budget.

Ibid.—"Died, at Daviot House, on the morning of Friday, 25th ult., in his 78th year, the Hon. Angus Mackintosh, 25th Chief of that Ilk, and 20th [25th] Chief and Captain of Clan Chattan. We will not go into a lengthy or elaborate eulogium of the character of the deceased. We will merely observe that he was a person of the most inflexible integrity, of a warm and sociable temper, given to hospitality, free of the sophistry of the world, totally unaffected, accessible to all who had occasion to address him, and in point of patriotism none could take precedence of him. He had been nearly fifty years a resident in Upper Canada, of the Legislative Council of which he was a member. In that country his many

virtues and public enterprise endeared him to a numerous and respectable acquaintance. His funeral was attended, from his late residence to Petty (the family burying-ground for many generations), by one of the most numerous assemblages of gentlemen and the tenantry generally we have witnessed for many years."

February 20.—"As a mark of respect to Dr Robertson of Aultnaskiach—long the Chief Magistrate of this burgh—it is proposed to request that gentleman to sit for his portrait to ornament our Town Hall. A subscription for this purpose was opened yesterday afternoon, and the amount already subscribed evinces the general estimation in which the worthy Provost is held by his fellow-townsmen of all parties."

February 27.—At a meeting of the Gaelic School Society in Edinburgh it was stated that in the Synods of Argyll and Glenelg, the population amounted to nearly 205,000, and of these no less than 24,703 above six years of age were unable to read. In the parish of Gairloch only about a fourth of the population were able to read.

March 6.—An advertisement announces that a steamer was to ply between Glasgow and Stornoway. The advertisement is signed by Alexander Ferguson, 30 Turner's Court, Glasgow.

Ibid.—The same issue contains an advertisement announcing that the Lordship of Lochaber, as founded by the late Duke of Gordon, was to be sold by public roup in Edinburgh on 16th July. The net rental was given at £5796 sterling. A subsequent advertisement gives it at £6124 8s 2d.

March 13.—Meetings in favour of modifying or abolishing patronage in the Church were at this time common. In this issue there is a report of a meeting at Reay, in Caithness, and it is stated that almost every parish in the county had held similar meetings. Petitions from Inverness and other places were also sent to the House of Commons, where Mr George Sinclair, M.P., was moving in the matter.

Ibid.—The walk on the bank of the River Ness, along the property of Bught, had recently been made by the proprietor. There was as yet no bridge connecting the Islands with the west bank.

March 20.—There was a revival of illicit distillation in the district. This was largely due to the low price of barley, and to the withdrawal of a revenue cutter. In the local market barley was quoted at from 24s to 27s per imperial

quarter. In the next issue it is stated that the fiars' prices in the North were about 20 per cent. below the previous year.

March 27.—There is an account of the bill introduced by the Lord Advocate for municipal reform in Scotland.

Ibid.—At a public meeting in Stornoway on the 20th inst.—Mr Murdo Mackenzie in the chair—it was resolved "that it is the unanimous sense of this meeting that the sum allowed by Government for a Packet betwixt Stornoway and the opposite coast, is totally inadequate to the support of a vessel suitable to the purpose, and that this community, in consequence, labour under the most serious grievances, which loudly call for remedy." A committee was appointed to collect facts and prepare an application for redress. The grievances of Stornoway are thus of old standing.

April 10.—With this issue the "Courier" was enlarged, becoming a sheet of six columns to the page, or twenty-four columns in all. It was also printed in new type and with a new press. The circulation of the paper had increased, a fact due in a measure, as the editor states, to the growing desire for public information and political inquiry. "Most of our readers must, in their daily intercourse with society, have observed that the recent extension of political rights and the improvements entered on by the Government, both in Church and State, have given an impulse to the public mind unexampled in any former period of our history. Napoleon termed us a nation of shopkeepers; we may now be called a nation of readers and politicians. . . Great Britain seems at this moment to realise the idea of a mighty people roused at once to the full consciousness of their strength, and admitted to the exercise of new powers and privileges."

April 17.—The Court-House and gaol of the burgh of Tain were burned down on the 15th inst. The fire was discovered about two o'clock on Monday morning, and spread with great rapidity. Three persons confined in the jail lost their lives, one (perhaps two) imprisoned for debt, the third the wife of the second prisoner, who had come to visit her husband. The Town-House had been erected only in 1825, at the joint expense of the town and county, and was not insured.

Ibid.—A report on toll dues, roads, and other matters affecting the movement of sheep and cattle from the Northern Counties to the Southern markets appears in this issue. The

exaction of tolls was a great grievance, particularly in the counties of Perth and Stirling. The committee suggested various remedies, including the formation of a general drove road, on a line formerly recommended by Mr Telford. The report is signed by Mr J. Murray Grant of Glenmoriston.

April 24.—"Intelligence was received here last night of the death of Colonel John Baillie of Leys, member for the Inverness District of Burghs, and a Director of the East India Company. The Colonel died at his house in London at twelve o'clock on Saturday last. He was attacked about ten days previous with the epidemic so prevalent in the metropolis, the influenza, which was followed by inflammation, that in a few days proved fatal. He was, we believe, in his 61st year. Colonel Baillie was a native of the town of Inverness. He entered early in life into the services of the East India Company as a cadet; and held successively the important offices of Professor of the Hindostanee language in the Company's College at Calcutta, and Resident at Lucknow. After his return to England in 1816, he sat for the burgh of Hedon, in Yorkshire, which he represented in two Parliaments. He was returned for the Inverness Burghs in September 1830, and again at the last general election, after one of the keenest contests witnessed in Great Britain. The sudden death of this gentleman so recently after his struggle here, and almost before the excitement it occasioned had subsided—and in the midst of the pending negotiations relative to the East India Company's Charter, in which he took a strong and lively interest—irresistibly reminds us of the eloquent exclamation of Burke—"What shadows we are and what shadows we pursue." Colonel Baillie built Leys Castle, near Inverness, and planted the woods around it. The Castle was unfinished at the date of his death.

May 8.—It is announced that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had reduced the duty on advertisements from 3s 6d to 1s 6d. "This alteration was brought forward on Thursday evening, and appears to have been assented to without a dissentient voice." The reduction came into effect in July.

Ibid.—The Parliamentary Commission on Roads and bridges had replaced the Bridge of Borlum, in Glen-Urquhart, with a stone bridge of two arches, each 40 feet span. They had also contracted for the erection of a bridge over the river Findhorn, at Corrybrough, in lieu of

that which was carried away by the flood of August 1829. They had likewise resolved to effect an improvement in the pass of Slochmuich.

Ibid.—The death is announced of Mr James Macpherson of Belleville, son of the translator of Ossian. He is said to have carried out great improvements on his property, with the view of giving employment to those around him, and of converting into smiling and productive fields the mosses and unenclosed wastes of his estate. "The magnificent embankments which he has made along the whole line of the Spey, opposite his property—the villages which he founded on the most liberal principles at Newtonmore and Lynachat, and the immense improvements which he has effected in draining, clearing, enclosing, and planting, will long remain a monument of his liberality and patriotism." Mr Macpherson was also a farmer and improver of stock.

May 15.—Owing to the death of Colonel Baillie there was a fresh contest for the representation in Parliament of the Inverness District of Burghs. The candidates were Major Cumming Bruce and Mr Stewart of Belladrum. The latter laboured under the disadvantage of being absent during the contest, having been detained in London by severe indisposition. The result of the election was—Major Cummin Bruce, 358 votes; Mr Stewart, 292; majority for Major Cumming Bruce, 66. The successful candidate had a majority in all the burghs except Nairn. In Forres he had 93 votes as against 44.

May 29.—"Mr Alexander Ross, house carpenter, Tain, who died a few weeks since, was one of the few who recollected the battle of Culloden. At the period of the battle he was ten years of age. A body of the retreating Highlanders took possession of the choicest of his father's cattle, and, entering his house, laid violent hands on all that appeared desirable to consume or carry off."

June 12.—The bridge at Millburn, near Inverness, was now widened ten feet, and the foot-path extended about a mile further from Inverness.

June 19.—The scheme of Government for the future administration of the affairs of India was explained in the House of Commons by the President of the Board of Trade. "Mr Grant spoke for nearly three hours and a-half, and, according to the journals of all parties, with his usual eloquence, force, and effect."

Ibid.—On Tuesday, the 11th inst., a gathering

of the people of Badenoch assembled at Dalwhinnie to welcome and escort home their Chief, Cluny Macpherson, and his wife, to their residence at Cluny Castle. The procession was headed by about fifty gentlemen on horseback. On arriving at the Castle the Chief thanked them in a Gaelic speech.

June 26.—“Mr Macleod of Geanies has retired from the Sheriffdom of Ross-shire, having held that office for, we believe, the long period of fifty-nine years—a life-time in itself.”

July 10.—There are letters and articles in this and other issues respecting outrages that were said to have occurred in the district of Dundonnell, in the west of Ross-shire. Some of these outrages dated several years back, and were connected with a law case. Others had to do with the removal of yairs for catching herrings. The stories were obviously exaggerated, and though they caused much excitement at the time, they are not now of interest.

July 17.—The Inverness Sheep and Wool Fair was very satisfactory to sellers. “From a calculation which we made, assisted by some of the gentlemen attending the market, it appears that the transactions in sheep amounted to about £100,000; and those in wool to £70,000 or £80,000. The prices were high. In wool there is a great advance, particularly of the common blackfaced description, which brought 21s and 21s 6d per stone of 48 lbs., being a rise of from 5s 6d to 6s 6d per stone over last year's prices. The highest price obtained for Cheviot wool was 20s 9d per stone of 24 lbs., deliverable in the Clyde, being an advance over last year's prices of about 4s 6d.” The advance in blackfaced wool was partly accounted for by its growing scarcity, as Cheviot stock was becoming more general. The following prices are quoted:—Cheviot wethers, 22s to 31s; ewes, 13s 6d to 20s; lambs, 8s to 11s 3d; blackfaced wethers, 16s to 24s; ewes, 7s 6d to 12s 6d; lambs, 6s 6d to 9s 6d. Cheviot wool, per stone of 24 lbs., 18s to 20s 9d; cross ditto, washed, 14s to 16s; unwashed, 12s to 14s; blackfaced, per stone of 48 lbs., 20s to 22s. A meeting was held on the subject of the transport of stock, and the report of a committee was adopted, praying the Commissioners of Highland Roads and Bridges to survey a line of drove road from a point near Highbridge, across Rannoch Moor to Killin, or to a point on the old military road near King's House.

July 24.—The death is announced of the Duke

of Sutherland at Dunrobin Castle on Friday, the 19th inst. The Duke arrived in the North only a fortnight previous, and was shortly afterwards seized with the illness which proved fatal. His Grace was born in January 1758, and was consequently in his 76th year. He married the Countess of Sutherland in 1785, and succeeded his father as Marquis of Stafford in 1803. A few months before his death he was created Duke of Sutherland. His Grace did much for the county by liberally assisting in the construction of roads and harbours and promoting education.

Ibid.—Mr George Sinclair, M.P., moved on the 16th in the House of Commons for leave to bring in a bill to repeal the Act of Queen Anne abolishing patronage in the Church of Scotland. Mr Horatio Ross seconded. The motion was withdrawn, as it was found that it could not be entertained without the previous consent of the Crown.

August 7.—The remains of the late Duke of Sutherland were conveyed from Dunrobin Castle, and were laid in Dornoch Cathedral on 31st July. "There was a total absence of pomp and pageantry. The coffins were made by his Grace's own carpenter, the shroud was sewn by the females of his family and the daughters of his tenants, and his body was placed in its last abode by the hands of his faithful servants. This absence of all ostentatious display was, however, more than compensated by the attendance of thousands and the heartfelt grief, surpassing show, which pervades every heart." The number of persons present was estimated at ten thousand. The refreshments consisted of bread, meat, and ale, whisky being excluded.

August 14.—The Directors of the Inverness Academy at this time adopted a resolution to appoint teachers without salaries, allowing them to take payment in fees, to be regulated by the Board. Mr James Falconer was appointed writing and commercial master.

August 21.—The Scots Burgh Reform Bill, and a supplementary bill dealing with burghs not Royal, passed through Committee in the Lords. The following issue recorded the third reading.

August 28.—"Strangers continue to flock into the North, and there never perhaps was a time when the Highlands had so many visitors. Our inns are all full, bed and board; coach seats are almost as difficult to obtain as a lottery prize in the olden time; steam-boats are equally crowded, and gigs and horses are everywhere but at home. In the interior of

the country we find parties of all descriptions—sportsmen with dogs and guns, the patient angler with his rod, the geologist with his bag and hammer, the botanist with his book of specimens, the scene-hunter with his pencil or memoranda, and numerous groups intent only on pic-nicking among wild hills, streams, or waterfalls. . . . Our Highland inns are greatly improved. The lairds are still too careless in looking after the 'change-houses' on their estates; but in general traffic produces cleanliness and civility, and the force of example as well as precept begins to be felt and acknowledged."

September 4.—There was opposition in the parish of Petty to the acceptance of the Rev. John Grant as their minister. One objection was his alleged deficiency in the Gaelic language. The Presbytery heard him preach, and found that Mr Grant had an intimate acquaintance with the Gaelic language, and possessed great fluency and accuracy in it. They resolved to proceed with Mr Grant's trials for ordination, but to defer further consideration of the case till the approach of the General Assembly.

Ibid.—It is stated that Rob Roy's favourite claymore had been presented by Mr Ryder, of the Aberdeen Theatre, to Mr Alexander Fraser, the young laird of Torbreck. The present was accompanied by the following certificate of its authenticity:—"This was the favourite claymore of Rob Roy. It was presented by him to his particular friend and near relative, Mr Campbell of Glenlyon, and remained in that family until Francis Gordon Campbell of Troup succeeded to the title and estates of Glenlyon."

September 11.—At the Inverness Circuit Court there were numerous charges of assault, and the presiding Judge, Lord Meadowbank, said there were more cases of assault tried at this Circuit than in all other parts of Scotland united. "The people of the Highlands," he said, "seemed in this respect to be a people living without law." The editor thought this statement a little exaggerated; but he expressed the hope that influential persons would "exert increased activity to repress an offence which has become a reproach and disgrace to us, and which seems, unfortunately, to be on the increase."

September 25.—The portrait of Dr Robertson of Aultnaskiach, painted by subscription for the Town Hall, was recently finished. A pannel at the bottom bears the following subscription:—"In testimony of regard for his private

worth and public usefulness while Chief Magistrate of Inverness, this portrait of James Robertson of Aultnaskiach, M.D., was placed here by public subscription of his fellow-citizens, 1833. John Sime, Esq., S.A., pinxt." The paragraph proceeds—"The portrait is the size of life, in a sitting posture, with one hand containing a letter, and the other engaged in lifting an eye-glass. The likeness is admirable, bating perhaps a little too much fulness in the body. . . . Mr Sime, the artist, is well known as a bold and felicitous portrait painter, and we have since seen some pictures on which he is at present engaged, which give us even a higher idea of his talents." The portrait now hangs in the Council Chamber.

Ibid.—A fine piece of plate for presentation to Mr John Mackenzie, banker, had arrived, and was on exhibition. It consisted of an epergne richly chased and ornamented, standing on a handsome plateau, and surmounted by a bouquet. The cost was a hundred and twenty guineas. On one compartment was engraved Mr Mackenzie's arms, and on another his crest and the following inscription:—"Presented to John Mackenzie, Esq., by admirers of his public conduct and private character, residing in Inverness and neighbourhood; in acknowledgment of his strenuous and valuable services in support of popular rights during Earl Grey's administration, a period of the highest importance to the political independence and welfare of the nation, September 1833."

October 2.—From a notice of the Northern Meeting, it seems that the gathering had for some years fallen off. The account of the Meeting says that at one period it "used to draw together nearly all the leading families of the Highlands." This year it was "enlivened by the presence of several strangers," but the attendance was "more respectable than numerous," and the dinner parties were much smaller than formerly. "There was no attempt to revive the sports of the turf, or to institute any public amusement, excepting the ball, which was well attended."

Ibid.—A treatise on the Natural History of the Salmon, by Mr Alexander Fraser, tacksman of Dochnalurg, which seems to have been first printed for private circulation, was now published. Several extracts from it are given in this issue.

Ibid.—A bazaar, which is described as a "novel and interesting exhibition," was held in the Town Hall for the benefit of the conjoined

charities of the Infant School, the Female School, and the Female Work Society. Stalls were kept by Lady Saltoun, Mrs Fraser of Lovat, Lady Mackenzie of Gairloch, Mrs Cumming Bruce, Mrs Fraser of Oulduthel, Mrs Fyvie, &c. The proceeds amounted to £401 15s 6d. A small basket made by the Queen brought £4 10s.

Ibid.—Two Commissioners, Mr Hunter and Mr Innes, were at this time in the North, making arrangements for carrying out the Municipal Reform Act. Inverness was divided into three Wards.

October 9.—There was at this time a commercial crisis in Bombay and Calcutta, involving also some London houses. The amount of liabilities is placed at £15,000,000 sterling. The Burmese war is assigned as one of the chief causes of the financial collapse. The Indian Government floated a loan which withdrew a large sum from the commerce of the country.

Ibid.—The death is recorded of Mr John Macpherson, at Cluny Castle, in St Thomas in the East, Jamaica, a near relative of the Chief of the Clan. "The old gentleman, in defiance of mosquitoes and everything else, continued to wear the philabeg, composed of the tartan of his clan; and at the skirl of the pibroch every negro within reach of its sound was heard to exclaim, 'God bless my old massa; he makes plenty of noise for me.' So universally was this gentleman respected in the quarter that a holiday was granted to all the negroes to attend his remains to the 'narrow house;' and a poor old Highlandman who could scarcely crawl to his kinsman's grave, produced his bagpipe, and played the 'Macpherson's Lament' in a style which was responded to by every Celt present doffing his bonnet."

October 16.—The epergne described in a previous paragraph was presented to Mr John Mackenzie, banker, at a general meeting of the subscribers in the Royal Hotel. Mr John Thomson, banker, was in the chair, and the presentation was made by Mackintosh of Mackintosh.

Ibid.—The remains of Gregor Macgregor, alias Willox, and widely known as "Willox the Warlock," were laid to rest in the Church-yard of Kirkmichael, Strathdon, on the 5th inst. "Gregor was the last of a line of ancestors, long the objects of awe and veneration, as the possessors of the only means ever known of prying into futurity, and of controlling and circumventing the works of both natural and supernatural agents." His tools consisted of

a piece of yellow metal, resembling the bit of a horse's bridle, which was said to have been taken from a water-kelpie; and a transparent stone, "resembling the nob of a crystal bottle," which was said to have been extorted from a mermaid. "Strange as it may appear to the enlightened reader, these credentials, transmitted from father to son, obtained for many ages implicit faith among the peasantry of Scotland from Perth to John o' Groats." In recent years faith in Willox had fallen off, but he had a specious tongue and a fund of traditional lore which brought him many visitors. Apart from his profession of necromancer, to which he adhered to his dying day, the paragraph says that there was nothing very reprehensible in the character or conduct of Willox.

October 23.—"We believe we can state with safety that smuggling is fast decreasing in the Highlands. Donald still keeps hold of a few heights and hollows, where the gauger cannot conveniently find his way; but as a trade, illicit distillation will soon die a natural death."

October 30.—A paragraph from the "*Elgin Courier*" describes how Mr Dean, farmer at Easter Oakenhead, found the remains of a ship while ploughing at the eastern extremity of the Loch of Spynie, in Morayshire. The editor of the paper, with a companion, cleared away part of the soil, so as to inspect the buried timbers. "The whole length of the vessel appears to have been thirty feet; but we did not ascertain the breadth. The whole of the ribs are entire, and composed of oak, and the stern is quite round on Sir Robert Sepping's plan. When we came to that part of the vessel which must have been the deck, although distinguishable enough, yet the spade went through as if it had only been clay. We may say the same of a piece of birch wood about two inches in diameter, which was perfectly entire in the back, yet the spade went through it with greater ease than it would have done through an apple. What appeared to us most singular was the distinct appearance that the whole of the space between the ribs and the outer and inner covering, of which we could find no more traces than we did of the deck, had been closely filled up with heather, which appeared before touching it quite fresh; but immediately after became a pulp. It is more than probable that this vessel has been lost nearly 600 years ago, as one of its dimensions could not have navigated the Loch of Spynie, more particularly in the part where it has been found, after the 12th or 13th century."

November 6.—The close or self-electing system in burgh corporations had now come to an end, and the new Town Councils were elected this week throughout the country. In Inverness the Reform party was successful in all the three wards. "The contest was conducted with great activity, but, we are happy to add, in peace and good humour. There were a few long cheers on one side and a few long faces on the other, and the winners are to invite their Provost (Mr Mackenzie, the banker, we presume) to a public dinner; but all is quiet and conciliation." The total number of votes cast for the Reformers was 1462 and for the Conservatives 1053, giving a majority of 409.

November 13 and 20.—The following were the first Provosts elected under the Reform Act in the Northern Burghs:—Inverness, Mr John Mackenzie, banker; Nairn, Mr Isaac Ketchen; Dingwall, Mr Hugh Innes Cameron, banker; Tain, Mr H. R. Ross of Cromarty; Fortrose, Dr George Tulloch; Forres, Mr Charles Gordon, wine merchant; Elgin, Mr William Gauldie, merchant. The Scottish papers, it is stated, were teeming at this time with accounts of the sayings and doings of the new Councils. "Conscious that more is expected from them than from their predecessors, the civic functionaries appear to be all up and stirring." The first business of the Glasgow Town Council was a discussion regarding the propriety of discarding the cocked hats and gold chains worn by the Magistrates. The cocked hats were discarded but the gold chains were retained. The issue contains a list of charities in Inverness. The total under the charge of the Magistrates and Council was £38,538 14s 6d, but this included the Mackintosh Farr Fund, amounting to £25,218. The annual produce of the Kirk-Session funds was £367 per annum. This included collections of £100 at the church doors. In a subsequent issue it is stated that this £100 was derived from the ordinary collections, and that special quarterly collections for the poor produced an additional revenue of at least £200 a year, so that the total from church funds may be placed at £567 a year.

November 27.—"Died, at Petty, on the 15th inst., the Rev. William Smith, minister of the parish of Petty, and Presbytery of Inverness, in his 87th year." A long account of Mr Smith, who seems to have been a man of great ability and influence, is contributed by a friend. He was regarded as an authority in Church Courts, and was at the same time

a powerful preacher. "The great feature of the man, mentally and physically, was strength; there was nothing puny or frivolous about him."

December 4.—There is a description of Martinmas Market, which then brought together several thousand people, and afforded an opportunity for the sale of many rural commodities. The writer notes that "bonnets which even twenty years ago were unknown excepting among ladies, are now worn by young women of the humblest station; and over every head when it rains is raised an umbrella. Indeed, the latter is considered by the country people an indispensable appendage, and the display of umbrellas on our streets last Friday was truly formidable, and would have impressed a South Sea Islander with a high idea of our comfort and civilisation."

Ibid.—The beautiful residence of Lady Saltoun, known as "the Cottage," on the banks of the River Ness, was totally destroyed by fire on the previous Monday evening. The most valuable moveables, including Lady Saltoun's jewels, and the plate, family pictures, and books, were saved, but the Hon. Miss Fraser's jewels, and the wardrobes of both ladies, were sacrificed.

Ibid.—A public dinner was given at Forres in honour of the new Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council. Provost Gordon was in the chair, and the toast of the evening was proposed by Major Cumming Bruce, M.P.

December 18.—A public dinner was given in the Northern Meeting Rooms in celebration of the accomplishment of Burgh Reform. The company numbered 315, and the room was splendidly lighted with gas. Provost Mackenzie was in the chair, supported by the Hon. Colonel Grey, M.P. (a son of the Prime Minister), Mr Fraser of Lovat, Sir Francis Mackenzie of Gairloch, Mackintosh of Mackintosh, Captain Fraser of Balnain, Macleod of Cadboll, Mr Stewart of Belladrum, &c. Colonel Grey was at the time residing in the neighbourhood, in command of the 71st Regiment. Provost Mackenzie, on behalf of the Town Council, presented him with the freedom of the burgh.

Ibid.—A Perthshire paper takes notice of the success of a literary and antiquarian society in the county town. The "*Courier*" having extracted a few sentences, adds—"We quote this with some degree of shame and regret, not as regards Perth, but as respects Inverness. We have an Institution here of a similar

nature, but so little is it encouraged that we question whether it can languish on another year. It is in contemplation, we hear, to apply for the hall of the Academy, to serve for the Museum, and we hope this will be obtained."

December 25.—The Inverness Town Council, being of opinion that the services of Donald Ross, the hangman, might be dispensed with, resolved that the appointment should cease. The editor says—"Retrenchment being the order of the day, the Council conceived they could dispense with the services of the executioner, which are seldom required here, and have hitherto been paid for, like the services of other high legal functionaries, at rather an extravagant rate. Donald Ross was appointed executioner in 1812, with a salary of £16 per annum. As most public appointments of a rare and difficult nature are accompanied with fees and perquisites, independent of salary, Donald had various bites and nibbles at the public purse. First he was provided with a house, bed, and bedding. Second, he was allowed thirty-six peats weekly from the tacksmen of the Petty Customs. Third, he had a bushel of coals out of every cargo of English coals imported into the town. Fourth, he was allowed a piece of coal, as large as he could carry, out of every cargo of Scotch coals. Fifth, he had a peck of oat-meal out of every hundred bolls landed at the Shore. Sixth, he had a fish from every creel or basket of fish brought to the market. Seventh, he had a penny for every sack of oat-meal sold at the market. Eighth, he had a peck of salt out of every cargo. Ninth, he was allowed every year a suit of clothes, two shirts, two pairs of stockings, a hat, and two pairs of shoes. Added to these fixed and regular sources of income, Donald levied blackmail on the lieges in the shape of Christmas boxes, and had besides a sum of five pounds at every execution at which he presided. Now all these items must have amounted to fifty or sixty pounds per annum, and as there have been just three executions since Donald acceded to office, they must have cost the town nearly four hundred pounds each execution. It is worthy of remark that the last hangman here experienced a very untimely end. He had gone to Elgin on professional business, and was attacked on his return, about Forres, by a mob of mischievous boys and lads, who maltreated him in so shameful a manner that he died on the spot. The most active of the mob were, however, tried and transported."

No. X.

The year 1834 was one of great political stress in Parliament. Earl Grey's administration got into difficulties over the Irish Church question and the renewal of the Irish Crimes Act. Besides the reduction of the Irish Episcopate, they had to consider a scheme for putting an end to the tithe war, and proposals for dealing with the surplus of Irish Church funds. One section of the Government was in favour of applying the surplus to general philanthropic purposes; another desired to reserve it for strictly ecclesiastical purposes. The adherents of the latter view, namely, the Duke of Richmond, Mr Stanley (afterwards Earl of Derby), Sir James Graham, and the Earl of Ripon, resigned. It was at first thought that their secession would break up the administration, but their places were filled by the Marquis of Conyngham, who became Postmaster-General; the Earl of Carlisle, Privy Seal; Lord Auckland, First Lord of the Admiralty; and Mr Spring Rice, Colonial Secretary. The aspect of political affairs, however, continued to be very unsettled.

During the summer and autumn misunderstandings arose in connection with an Irish Coercion Bill. Earl Grey, wearied with the difficulties of his position, resigned office as Prime Minister, and Lord Melbourne was called to the head of the Government. During the same time the Lord Chancellor, Brougham, had been subjected to relentless criticism by the London papers for his restlessness, irritability, and generally domineering conduct.

When Parliament rose, Brougham paid a visit to Scotland, where he was entertained at great houses and received with unbounded enthusiasm by the populace, who knew him by reputation rather than at first hand. They were proud of his ability and public services, and unaware of his peculiarities or indifferent to them. At Inverness,

Brougham delivered a speech which excited a storm by the remark that the Government had done "too much rather than too little." Seeing that he had made a mistake, the Chancellor endeavoured at other meetings to retrieve himself by going on an opposite tack. "Using Radical language at one place, employing Conservative arguments at another, he amazed and alarmed the friends who were not merely amused at his eccentricity." Suddenly, in November, King William dismissed his Whig Ministers, and asked the Duke of Wellington to form an administration. Wellington sent for Sir Robert Peel, who was at Rome, and Peel, on his return, advised a dissolution of Parliament. The country, however, resented the action of the Sovereign, and failed to return a Conservative majority.

From the "Inverness Courier."

1834.

January 1.—A dinner in the Macdonell Arms at Invergarry was held to celebrate the marriage of young Glengarry to Miss Bennet, niece of the late Bishop of Cloyne. Mr Grant of Glenmoriston presided.

January 1 and 8.—An atrocious murder was perpetrated near Elgin on Saturday, 28th December. An industrious man named Ritchie, residing at Lhanbryde, was killed by a blow from a bludgeon as he was on his way home from the town. The motive was evidently robbery. His murderer turned out to be a deserter named Noble, who after the crime re-enlisted under another name, and was apprehended at Fort-George.

January 8.—The question of admitting reporters and the public to the meetings of the new Town Councils was discussed in many places. Some Councils opened their doors, some did not. "When the present Town Council of Inverness came into office," says the editor, "the question of open meetings was canvassed. We confess we thought the Council might safely open their doors, for very few would have time or inclination to attend; but it was deemed best, for some time at least, till the members were familiarised with municipal business and details, to exclude even reporters for the local papers. It was agreed, however, to let the Council books be open for inspection

at the Town Clerk's office, and we accordingly transfer the minutes of the respective meetings to our columns. Perhaps this is as much as the public will tolerate. If we were disposed and enabled to give the conversation that passes around the Council table, we are confident that it would be read by none but the members themselves." These were the municipal and editorial views of 1834.

January 15.—An Inverness vessel, the "Oak," went to Portmahomack to load grain, and when lying in the bay during rough weather, lost one of her boats, and was afterwards driven ashore. Five lives were lost.

January 22.—"In looking over some old business letters lately we were surprised, under so late a date as 1805, to find a gentleman in Ross-shire write in the following strain:—'I expect to be in Inverness on my way South on Monday, and should be glad if you could fall in with travelling companions for me, either to go in a chaise or on horseback, as it is dull travelling alone.' We have now four coaches running South—the Mail, the Defiance, and the Star, daily, and the Caledonian coach by the Highland Road, thrice every week in summer and twice in winter."

January 29.—"The fine lordship of Lochaber, which from the associations of song and music seems part of the classic ground of Scotland, has, we understand, been disposed of in the following manner:—The first portion that was sold (which is the second in point of value) was purchased by Mr Walker of Crawfordtown, Dumfries-shire; the next lot was disposed of to Lochiel and Sir Duncan Cameron of Fassfern; and the largest and best lot was sold last week to Lord Aboyne." A paragraph in another issue says that the town of Fort-William was part of the lot that fell to Sir Duncan Cameron.

Ibid.—Died, at Geanies House, Ross-shire, on the 21st ult., Donald Macleod, Esq. of Geanies, late Sheriff of Ross and Cromarty, in the 89th year of his age. A paragraph says—"This respected gentleman held the office of Sheriff-Depute of the counties of Ross and Cromarty during a period of 59 years; that of Convener of Ross-shire during 40 years, and that of Vice-Lieutenant of the same county while Lord Seaforth was Lord-Lieutenant. His energetic activity and sound judgment were remarkably conspicuous at those periods when the public safety required the measures of the Government to be promptly and strictly

executed; and the Militia, Volunteers, and local Militia forces were successively embodied under his immediate superintendence. He himself commanded a body of a thousand men, distinguished by their fine appearance and discipline."

Ibid.—The idea of having a University established at Inverness, with the possible aid of the Mackintosh, Bell, and other endowments, was at this time broached by the Town Council. Now and again the same idea has since been revived, but has never come to anything.

Ibid.—The Rev. Wm. Mackenzie of Tongue, in Sutherland, died on the 5th inst., at the age of 96, and in the sixty-seventh year of his ministry. He was a native of Kilmuir, in Ross-shire, and was settled in Tongue in 1769. A co-Presbyter contributes an account of his character and labours. Mr Mackenzie was an earnest and zealous preacher, and had laboured with great success in Tongue. During the last seven or eight years of his life he was totally blind, but he would not give up preaching. Even within four weeks of his death he preached sitting in his arm-chair in his dining-room.

February 5.—A native of Skye, Mr Donald Macdiarmid, who died in South Carolina, sent during his lifetime £1000 to be devoted to education in Portree, and bequeathed a second sum of £1000 for the same purpose.

February 5 and 12.—There are notices in these two issues of the Rev. Thomas Fraser, senior minister of Inverness, who died on the 3rd inst. He was a native of the parish of Kirkhill, and in his sixty-ninth year. Mr Fraser was appointed to the third charge of Inverness in 1801 and to the first in 1821. "During all this period he discharged the duties of his office with unremitting diligence, not only preaching regularly in his turn, but catechising his people, visiting the sick, superintending the schools, assisting in the management of the other public institutions, and attending particularly to the poor, whom he had the greater access to know from his having acted many years as Kirk-Treasurer. The leading features of his mind were a just and practical judgment, uncompromising integrity, and a delicate sense of justice."

February 12.—"Died, at Dochnalurg, near the banks of Loch-Ness, on Sunday last, Mr Alexander Fraser, tacksman of that place, and of

various salmon fishings in this neighbourhood. Mr Fraser was author of a treatise on the natural history of the salmon, published lately, which contains a great deal of curious and valuable matter, gleaned from the observation of a long course of years." The deceased, it is stated, acquired the esteem of all who knew him by his active exertions and his honest, upright, character. "Many a person whom business or pleasure led to visit the beautiful scenery amidst which Mr Fraser's lot was cast, will sigh to think that their intelligent and kind entertainer is at length summoned to his final rest. Mr Fraser was in his 71st year." This gentleman was the father of the late Dr Fraser-Mackintosh, M.P.

Ibid.—A paragraph is quoted from an Elgin paper under the heading "unexampled economy worthy of imitation." The two senior bailies of the burgh went on behalf of the town to Lossiemouth to meet the gentlemen appointed to stake off the ground for a proposed new harbour. The worthy Magistrates walked the whole distance, five miles out and five miles home, and only spent one shilling! This expenditure consisted of sixpence for whisky and the other sixpence to the waiter.

March 5.—On the motion of Mr Sinclair, M.P. for Caithness, the House of Commons appointed a Select Committee to consider the past and present state of the law of Church patronage in Scotland.

March 19.—"The subject of Church patronage is at present exciting much interest in Scotland. So far as we have been able to ascertain the sentiments of the people in this Northern part of the Kingdom, a general wish appears to be entertained for some modification of the present system, without, however, rushing to the opposite extreme of popular election." The Ministers of the Crown were supposed to be in favour of a veto on the rights of patrons. The Inverness Town Council adopted a series of resolutions suggesting that presentations should be made by delegates representing the heritors, the Kirk-Session, and male heads of families.

Ibid.—"The street lamps of this town [Inverness] being superseded by gas, were, of course, thrown aside. But keep a thing, says the proverb, seven years, and it will come of use. The good folks of Nairn have purchased part of the disused illuminants, and thirty more have been sent to enlighten the inhabitants of Tain."

March 26.—“The expense of executing criminals condemned to death at the Circuit Court has hitherto been a burden on this burgh.” This is the text of a letter from the Provost of Inverness to the Lord Advocate. The Provost urges that the expense should be borne by the Exchequer or by the county where the crime was committed.

Ibid.—A committee of the farming societies of Easter and Wester Ross resolved to hold a joint show at Invergordon.

April 2.—“Died, at Dumfries, on Wednesday, the 26th ult., Mrs Robert Burns, widow of our great national poet. Her health was considerably injured by a serious illness about twelve months ago, from which, however, she gradually recovered. On Saturday last she had a paralytic attack which deprived her of speech and hearing; but she remained perfectly sensible, and knew the relations and friends who zealously ministered to her comfort.” Mrs Burns had survived her husband thirty-eight years.

April 9.—There is an article on steam navigation in the North, explaining a scheme to establish a vessel to ply between the Moray Firth and London. There is also a suggestion for steam communication between Inverness and Liverpool, to connect with the coach at the latter port. By this route, it is stated, the mails could be carried in 57 hours. “Now the mail which leaves London at 8 o'clock p.m. on Monday does not reach Inverness until 9 o'clock p.m. on Thursday, or in 73 hours, sixteen more than might be occupied if the giant steam were brought into the field.”

April 16.—“The workmen on the Inverness Castlehill have, at the distance of about ten feet below the surface, come upon part of the ancient foundations of the Castle. Another skull has been dug up.”

April 23.—At the Synod of Moray a motion was carried, by 28 votes to 9, that the presentation of Mr Grant to the parish of Petty should be sustained. The case had created a good deal of local excitement.

April 30.—The following were the wages at the half-yearly feeling market:—Able, experienced ploughmen, from £3 10s to £4 10s; half-grown men for working odd horses, 50s to £3; herd boys from 26s to 30s; women for dairy and out-work from 25s to 30s.

May 7.—“Friday last was a grand gala day in Inverness. Two public edifices have been contemplated here for some time—the County

Buildings, including Court-House, Sheriff-Clerk's office, and depository for county records; and the United Charities School, intended to accommodate the Infant School and the Ladies' Work Society. When the plan was fully matured, designs obtained and contracts completed, it was resolved to gratify the lieges with a Masonic procession on occasion of laying the foundation-stone of the two structures. The brethren in the North entered into the scheme with the zeal and cordiality which distinguish the fraternity, and the Provincial Grand Master, William Brodie, Esq. of Brodie, willingly took upon himself the honourable duty of officiating at the imposing ceremony." The procession started from the Academy Park, and included the Provost and Magistrates, the Academy teachers and scholars (the latter carrying white wands), the friends of the Infant School charity, the county gentlemen, officials connected with the buildings, the Sheriff, Sheriff-Substitute, and Procurator-Fiscal, and the brethren of Masonic lodges. Brodie, as Provincial Grand Master, first laid the foundation-stone of the County Buildings on the Castle Hill, and then, the procession having been reformed, laid the foundation-stone of the United Charities School, on the eminence near the reservoir (opposite Viewhill). The ceremonies concluded with a dinner in the Caledonian Hotel, Sheriff Tytler in the chair.

Ibid.—"The Northern Institution was established at Inverness in 1825, for the promotion of science and literature in general, and more particularly with the view of investigating the antiquities and civil and natural history of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. A museum was collected, and has been enriched by many valuable contributions from all parts of the world, in natural history as well as scarce books and manuscripts. The funds of the institution have, however, been declining for some years, and nearly all interest in it has been extinguished. The members have accordingly resolved to break it up, and to transfer the Museum to the Academy here, the directors of the latter agreeing to pay the debts and engagements of the Institution, not exceeding £80. The coins alone, if sold as bullion, are worth this sum." The fragments of the Museum ultimately came into the hands of the Town Council, and are now (1904) in the Free Library Buildings, arranged by the Council of the Inverness Field Club. Many of the

original gifts, however, had either been reclaimed or mislaid. New gifts and new cases were added by the Field Club.

Ibid.—The trial of William Noble for the murder of William Ritchie took place at the Circuit Court at Inverness. He was convicted, and sentenced to be hanged at Elgin. After his conviction Noble confessed that he had committed the crime.

Ibid.—The Ross-shire County Meeting was held on the 30th of April at Dingwall. Formerly it had been held at Tain. The Sheriff stated that he had called the meeting at Dingwall for the convenience of gentlemen of the western district. There was no Act fixing a head burgh. Tain protested.

Ibid.—A movement was on foot for bringing mails by the Highland Road. The mail coaches, however, were exempt from tolls, while the county of Inverness derived £300 a year from the tolls paid by the Caledonian coach. There was difficulty in proposing to bring the mail coach toll free, and the county meeting appointed a committee to consider the subject.

May 14.—At the close of the Circuit Court the previous week, the Lord Justice-Clerk recommended that the Northern Counties should unite in erecting a large district Jail. The county of Inverness, at a meeting on the 13th inst., instructed the Sheriff and Convener to correspond on the subject with the members of Parliament and the Sheriffs and Conveners of other counties in the district.

May 28.—A party of scientific gentlemen paid a visit to the county of Sutherland to investigate its natural history. They took with them a light boat, supported on springs and fitted to a carriage, to enable them to examine lakes which would be otherwise inaccessible. The party consisted of Mr Selby of Twizell, Sir William Jardine, Dr Greville, and Mr James Wilson.

June 4.—The announcement is made of the secession of four members of the Government on account of a proposal for the appropriation of Irish Church property.

Ibid.—The Veto Act was adopted by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. In the division 184 voted for the motion as against 138 for an amendment giving the people a qualified right of objection. At the same Assembly, the Presbytery of Inverness was instructed to proceed with the settlement of Mr Grant in the parish of Petty.

Ibid.—William Noble was executed at Elgin on the 31st of May for murder. He was only twenty years of age. It is stated that there had not been an execution in Elgin for upwards of seventy years. The hangman was procured from Dundee at the charge of £12, exclusive of travelling expenses. The same functionary officiated at Aberdeen. "This plan," says a paragraph, "of engaging executioners only when required, and not for life, according to the ancient use and wont, will soon become general. It will be a great saving to the burghs, and two or three hangmen will do for all Scotland."

June 11.—The publication of a complete Guide to the Highlands and Islands, by Messrs George and Peter Anderson, is announced in this issue as about to take place. This was the first edition of the work, and is still prized by every one who happens to possess a copy. The Guide furnished Hugh Miller with the key to his geological observations. The book was written by men of exceptional culture and knowledge of the Highlands, and is packed with valuable information.

Ibid.—The Inverness Town Council, on the motion of the Provost, agreed to admit the public to their sittings. At the next meeting the public consisted of one citizen and two reporters.

June 18.—The Right Hon. Robert Grant, Judge-Advocate, brother of Lord Gleneig, was appointed Governor of Bombay. The salary was £12,000 per annum.

Ibid.—There is a report from a committee of Town Council on the Wooden Bridge (it is called "the New Bridge") and the administration of the account by the town. It appears that in 1804 Messrs Lockhart Kinloch and Peter Anderson took a lease of the lands of Merkinch from the proprietor, Mr Fraser of Torbreck, for 300 years. They granted feu tacks and building leases, and made proposals to the Magistrates of Inverness to have the lands brought within the extended Royalty, and to have a bridge built. Ultimately the tenants of Merkinch agreed to build the Wooden Bridge at their own expense, with the aid of voluntary subscriptions, and to hand it over to the Provost and Magistrates, who obtained an Act of Parliament for the purpose. The original cost of the bridge is said to have been above £2000, and during the next twenty-five years the town expended in repairs no less than £2580, independent of

interest. A toll was levied, the average produce of which was £58 a year.

Ibid.—A Crown presentation was issued transferring the Rev. Alexander Clark from the third to the first ministerial charge of the Church and parish of Inverness, vacant by the death of the late Rev. Thomas Fraser.

June 25.—There is an account of rejoicings in Lochaber to welcome Lochiel and his wife, Lady Vere Cameron, sister of the Earl of Buckinghamshire, who was introduced to the Clan for the first time. A large gathering of clansmen took place, each wearing a sprig of oak in his bonnet. The Macdonalds of Keppoch came down from Glen-Spean wearing the heather and oak entwined as emblematic of the good understanding which had existed between the two clans.

July 2.—Disease had appeared in the potato crop, but it was not general, and excited curiosity rather than anxiety.

July 9.—A memorial was forwarded to the Treasury by the Magistrates and Town Council of Inverness in favour of the transmission of the South mail direct from Perth to Inverness by the Highland Road. "We have frequently," says the editor, "taken occasion to advert to the advantages such a change would confer on the whole of the Northern Counties. The arrangement under which the mail is conveyed from Edinburgh to this place has for many years been the subject of complaint and remonstrance. The only coach by which it is carried traverses the road along the eastern coast, and by this route Perth is more than 200 miles distant from Inverness, while by the great Highland road the distance is only 115 miles. A stage coach has been run for several years on the Highland road; it is kept in the highest state of repair, and has recently undergone some extensive improvements. It has also been found by experience that it is less liable to be obstructed in winter by snow than the present mail road."

Ibid.—Mr Goodacre, a lecturer on astronomy, suggested the erection of an observatory on the site of the United Charities School, then in progress of erection. He offered the proceeds of the lecture as a donation to the proposed scheme. In the next issue an appeal was made for subscriptions by the Rev. Mr Fyvie and Mr George Anderson.

July 16.—Resignation of the Prime Minister, Earl Grey, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Althorp, on account of differences in the Cabinet relating to the Irish question.

Ibid.—The Inverness Sheep and Wool Market was held the previous week. On wool there was a rise of almost 3s per stone; a considerable advance on ewes and lambs, and a slight advance on wedders. Cheviot wedders fetched from 22s to 31s; ewes from 13s 6d to 21s; lambs from 9s 6d to 11s 6d. Blackfaced wedders fetched from 16s to 22s; ewes from 10s to 13s; lambs from 6s to 8s 6d. Cheviot washed wool fetched from 21s to 24s 6d; unwashed from 18s to 21s; cross from 16s to 20s; coarse laid from 11s to 12s; unlaid from 13s to 14s. The market was stiff.

July 23.—Lord Melbourne succeeded Earl Grey as Premier. "Lord Melbourne is an amiable, accomplished nobleman, but we suspect he wants weight to rule and consolidate the Cabinet. He has long been at the head of the fashionable world; but we have yet to learn that his lordship can, like Charles James Fox, unite the opposite characters of leader of the *haut ton* and first Minister of England." Lord Althorp remained in office as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

August 6.—A suspension bridge was thrown across the river on the east side of the Islands in 1828, but the funds were inadequate to provide one on the western side. "Additional subscriptions," we are now informed, "have since been obtained, and a contract has been entered into for the erection of a suspension bridge on the western bank, which will connect the beautiful walks on both sides, and form a fine ornament to the town."

Ibid.—It is stated that the great bulk of the Clan Chisholm had emigrated some years before to America, and that "the major part of the small remainder" were now settled on the estate of Lovat. "These good people, says a correspondent, hearing that Mrs Gooden, the daughter of the late Alex. Chisholm of Chisholm, who died in 1793, was making a tour in these parts, assembled on Friday, 18th ult., at the bridge of Struy, to pay their respects to her in passing, and after drinking her health with three heartfelt cheers, separated for their respective homes. It was a meeting of the deepest interest on both sides."

Ibid.—This issue records the death of a respected townsman, who had held the office of Convener of the Incorporated Trades for seventeen years, and was accordingly known as Convener Alexander Williamson. He had carried on for upwards of forty years a successful business as cabinet-maker and upholsterer, and died in the 62nd year of his age. The

funeral was on an impressive scale. "Each Incorporation went in the following order. Officer—Apprentices, four and four—Journey-men, four and four—present and late Box-masters. Afterwards the five Deacons, the old and new Conveners, and the General Box-master. The Magistrates, preceded by the town's officers, next walked in procession, and a large concourse of persons resident in the town and neighbourhood followed the body and the family mourners."

August 13.—A successful show of stock for the counties of Ross and Cromarty was held at Invergordon. At the dinner, however, there was talk of agricultural distress. It was said that this distress "was seen and felt in every rural district throughout the kingdom."

August 20.—The publication is announced of the *Guide to the Highlands* by Messrs George and Peter Anderson. "It is a complete work," says the editor in a preliminary notice, "full of information on all points interesting to the tourist, and, independently of its possessing the usefulness of an itinerary and guide book, it may be considered as affording an introduction to the temple of science, by its copious appendices on the geology, botany, natural history, and antiquities of the Highlands." A fuller notice appears in the following issue.

Ibid.—The number of visitors at Strathpeffer is so great that "half-a-guinea and even a guinea per week have been given for a bed in small dark rooms with earthen floors."

August 27.—It is recorded that the Duchess Countess of Sutherland, then in her 70th year, had just completed a tour of her great Highland property. "It is worthy of remark that her Grace travelled over the whole of this tour in her carriage, whereas a few years since the county was only accessible by boat, on foot, or on ponies, attended by guides to point out the way and render assistance through bogs and morasses."

September 3.—Lord Brougham passed through Inverness on this date on his way to visit the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland at Dunrobin. The two previous days he spent at Invereshie, the shooting quarters of the Right Hon. Edward Ellice, and at the Doune of Rothiemurchus, the summer residence of the Duchess of Bedford. The Lord Chancellor's Northern tour excited intense interest. His carriage arrived at Millburn, Inverness, at half-past four o'clock "this day," Wednesday, September 3. He was met by the Provost and Magistrates, the Trades Incorporations, with banners displayed, and a large number of the in-

habitants. The procession accompanied him to the Caledonian Hotel, and shortly afterwards his lordship entered the Northern Meeting Rooms, to receive an address and the freedom of the burgh. The presentation was made by Provost John Mackenzie, and Lord Brougham replied in what is described as "a short but eloquent and emphatic address." He began by saying that the distinction which the burgh had conferred upon him was due in the first place to the fact that he had the honour of serving a monarch who lived in the hearts of his subjects. "He had enjoyed the honour of serving that Prince for nearly four years, and during that time he had experienced from his Majesty only one series of gracious condescension, confidence, and favour. To find that he lived in the hearts of his loyal subjects in the ancient and important capital of the Highlands, as it had afforded him (Lord Brougham) only pure and unmixed satisfaction, would, he was confident, be so received by his Majesty, when he told him, as he would do by that night's post, of the gratifying circumstance." His lordship went on to say that if he had any personal claim to the honour which the burgh had conferred upon him, it arose from the part he had taken in such public questions as negro emancipation, reform in Parliament and the municipalities, and in the education of the people. "To those questions," he continued, "I have been a zealous friend, and I will continue the same as long as life is preserved to me. In doing so I meet with nothing but support, kindness, and assistance from the worthy and powerful part of the community; from others I meet with nothing but revilings, misrepresentation, and calumny. I cannot say that these have any effect upon me, for in truth I regard them with perfect indifference. The people now think for themselves, and will not take opinions from others, be they priests, peers, or printers—at the same time reverencing their priests, honouring their peers, and taking every opportunity—and God knows they cannot go to a better source—of deriving information from the liberty of the press, and the fullest and most unrestrained discussion." The speaker then went on to state what work had been accomplished during the past session. Incidentally he said that his own opinion was that the Government had "done too much rather than too little." He was criticised for this saying, and subsequent speeches had a more radical complexion.

September 10.—On the 4th inst. Lord Brougham

was honoured in the same way at Dingwall. He started early from Inverness in order to reach Dunrobin in the evening, and the ceremony at Dingwall took place shortly after ten o'clock a.m. His stay at Dunrobin extended only from Thursday to Monday. On the forenoon of the latter day he received deputations from Wick, Dornoch, Tain, and Cromarty, who presented him with the freedom of their respective burghs. On his way south he stayed a night at Beaufort Castle. Continuing his journey, he was honoured with civic presentations at Nairn, Forres, Elgin, and Aberdeen. The editor of the "*Courier*," in a pen-and-ink sketch, commends Lord Brougham's speech at Inverness and the manner of its delivery. He says, however, that "the Chancellor's profession of independence, and of disregard for the opinions of both Tory and Radical, struck us as being overcharged and out of place."

Ibid.—"The Lord Chancellor, while in Inverness last week, supplied himself largely with the Highland tartan, having purchased a great variety of the different clan patterns, in velvet and worsted, for waistcoats, trousers, and ladies' dresses. The draper (Mr Macdougall) who furnished the goods was delighted to find that his lordship knew the various patterns of the clans, and the tailor was no less proud at having spanned the waist of the Lord Chancellor."

Ibid.—The same issue contains a short memoir of Thomas Telford, the engineer of the Caledonian Canal and other great works, who had passed away at the age of seventy-seven. He was a native of Langholm, in Dumfries-shire, and rose from being a stone mason to the top of his profession as a civil engineer. The "*Courier*" mentions that in his youth he was only distinguished for his proficiency in cutting the letters on tombstones. "He was sedulous, however, in availing himself of every opportunity of improving his mind, and the life of a stone-mason is so far favourable to this, that it affords many vacant hours, especially in winter. By the light of his evening fire, Thomas Telford mastered many a volume, and he also became distinguished over the countryside for his powers as a rhymester." Though he gave up versifying, he did not lose interest in poetry. He was one of a band of friends who exerted themselves to publish the first collected edition of Burns's works, to which Dr Currie contributed his *Memoir*, and which realised a sum of nearly £2000 for the poet's widow and family. Telford was also a good

friend to Thomas Campbell and Robert Southey. The first employment which he obtained in London was an engagement as a journeyman mason at the building of Somerset House. "When walking along the Strand, he used occasionally to point out to his friends the particular portions of this great national structure he had assisted to build. The architect, Sir William Chambers, soon discovered Telford's merit, and promoted him to the overseership of different parts of the work. His rise was rapid when he was once lifted above the level of the mallet and the trowel."

September 17.—This issue contains the text of the addresses which were presented to Lord Brougham by the Northern Burghs, and accounts of his receptions at Nairn and Forres.

Ibid.—The movement of visitors to and from shooting quarters is noticed. "Captain Orme," says one paragraph, "has just returned from his shooting quarters at Poolewe, on the estate of Sir Francis A. Mackenzie of Gairloch, where he has had excellent sport, having also killed upwards of 100 salmon and nearly double that number of sea trout, on Sir Francis's famous river, the Ewe."

September 24.—There is a report of a great dinner given to Earl Grey at Edinburgh. The Earl of Rosebery was in the chair, and gave the toast of the evening. "The reply of Lord Grey was admirable for its good taste and good feeling. The venerable statesman has made his acknowledgements, and taken his leave with all the glory of the successful patriot and the accomplished orator."

Ibid.—"Died, at Sciberscross, Sutherlandshire, on 6th September, Mr James Hall, tacksman of that place, in the 64th year of his age. Mr Hall was a native of the Border, and was one of the first who introduced the improved system of sheep-farming into the Highlands. His general intelligence, integrity, and kindness of disposition made him much esteemed and respected by his friends and acquaintances."

October 1.—The Northern Meeting held the previous week was well attended. "Every succeeding year seems to add to the number of visitors from the South, anxious to explore the Highlands, and a few of these remained to be present at our festival." The Meeting extended over three days, from Wednesday to Friday, a dinner and ball being held each evening. The largest attendance was on the Friday evening, when Cluny Macpherson was in the chair, and about 160 ladies and gentlemen were present.

Ibid.—A public meeting was held at Inverness to co-operate with the General Assembly in an effort for the extension of Church accommodation. The Rev. Mr Clark said it was intended, as soon as a reasonable sum could be obtained, to begin the building of a church for 1800 sitters.

October 8.—It is mentioned that the Duke of Bedford, accompanied by his son, Lord Alexander Russell, and Mr Edwin Landseer, the distinguished artist, had arrived at Inverness from Dunrobin. On their way they visited the falls of Kilmorack and the scenery in the neighbourhood.

October 15.—Great improvements had been made in the condition of Elgin Cathedral, through the liberality of the Board of Woods and Forests, directed by the taste of Mr Reid, the King's architect for Scotland. The keeper of the building, John Shanks, who had spent much time in clearing rubbish from the building, was greatly delighted with the renovation. He had now but two causes of regret; one was that Sir Walter Scott had never visited the Cathedral, the other that Lord Brougham had passed through the town without going to see it. If Scott had come John was confident that the fame of the building, and perhaps his own name with it, would have gone down to posterity "foaming like a speat in some of the 'novells.'" As for Lord Brougham, "John had the chapter house sorted up in fine order for the expected visit, and intended to ask his lordship to sit down in the grand high stone seat, where the Bishop used to sit with all his Deans and clerks around him." Alas for the vanity of human wishes.

Ibid.—A weekly paper published in Elgin, entitled the "Elgin Courier," terminated its existence after a life of seven years. The copyright was sold for £5, and the plant for £130. The late Mr James Grant, of the "Morning Advertiser," began his career on the "Elgin Courier," but had left it some time before its demise. In his History of the Newspaper Press he mentions that the gentleman who bought the copyright of the old journal started a new one under the name of the "Elgin Courant," which still flourishes.

Ibid.—Cholera had reappeared this year in Inverness. One of its victims was a young medical practitioner, William Kennedy, son of the Rev. Mr Kennedy, minister of the Independent Chapel in Inverness. He had received a shock to his system by dressing the body of a gentleman who died of the disease.

October 22.—An account is given of the destruction of the Houses of Parliament by fire on the 16th inst.

November 5.—Great attention is given to a speech by the Earl of Durham, who was entertained to a public dinner at Glasgow. We are told that "few public dinners have been looked forward to with more curiosity or interest." Lord Durham was in favour of household suffrage, shorter Parliaments, and vote by ballot. There was open war between himself and Brougham.

Ibid.—A great flood had taken place in the river Ness, which carried off a rustic bridge connecting the two islands.

November 19.—This issue publishes the news of the dismissal of the Whig Government by the King, who had "fairly turned them out of office," and sent for the Duke of Wellington. The Whig Ministers had become unpopular, but the summary action of the King created intense astonishment.

Ibid.—There is a report of a dinner given on the 13th inst. at Kingussie to the Duke of Gordon. "Part of the possessions of the Duke having passed into other hands, the gentlemen of Badenoch resolved to testify their respect and attachment to his Grace, under whose family the country had for centuries enjoyed protection, favour, and support." The entertainment was given in the Assembly Hall,—Cluny Macpherson in the chair. The tickets were confined to the "gentlemen of Badenoch," and about seventy were present. A cavalcade of horsemen, sixty in number, met the Duke about eight miles from Kingussie, and another large body on foot, with pipes playing and flags waving, marched out to a point half-way between Kingussie and Belleville. The Duke drove up in a carriage and four. "Three of the best looking Highlanders came out of the ranks, and, producing a bottle and glass, requested his Grace to accept a dram. The request was made in Gaelic, but Cluny acted as interpreter. The Duke drank the healths of all present, the pipes played up 'Fàilte Phrionnsa,' the banners were lowered, and as if by one impulse, the men doffed their bonnets, the ladies waved their handkerchiefs, and the whole people gave a long and loud cheer, which must have startled the slumbering echoes of the hills of Badenoch. This enthusiasm was truly electrical; the Duke shed tears, and the people were equally touched." The horses were then unyoked, and the carriage drawn to Kingussie. It is mentioned

that the flag of the Macphersons was an object of attraction; it was pierced with several musket balls, received chiefly at the battle of Falkirk in the '45. A body of seventy fine looking Highlanders, arrayed in the kilt, surrounded this relic. The speeches at the dinner are reported to the length of three columns. Dr Carruthers afterwards described the scene in his Highland Notebook, from which a passage is quoted in the Introduction to the first volume of "The Northern Highlands."

Ibid.—The Nairnshire Missionary Society met at Nairn, and voted to various objects subscriptions to the amount of £30.

Ibid.—Much regret was expressed that Mr John Mackenzie, banker, found it necessary to resign the office of Provost of Inverness on account of ill-health. He was the first Provost elected under the Reform Act, and enjoyed the full support of the Council and community.

November 26.—"The Government is in a sort of abeyance, or is wholly in the hands of the Duke of Wellington." A messenger had been despatched for Sir Robert Peel, who was in Rome, and the Duke held the chief place and several other offices until Peel's arrival.

Ibid.—We are informed in this number that the streets of Inverness were admirably paved, and might challenge comparison with any other burgh in the Kingdom. The town had also boasted for years of being one of the best lighted in the country, but recently the Gas Company had been losing seriously by the street lamps, and the service had been reduced. The Council was restricted to a sum of £200 as the maximum assessment, and they could not give more without adopting the Police Act.

December 3.—A dissolution of Parliament is anticipated, but as yet there is no certainty. Prospective candidates, however, are issuing their addresses. Mr Charles Grant is again to stand for the county of Inverness, and is to be opposed by Macleod of Macleod.

Ibid.—"We learn that a branch of the Commercial Bank is to be established in a few weeks at Cromarty. The Bank has nominated Robert Ross, Esq., agent, and Mr Hugh Miller, accountant. The latter appointment will give much pleasure to all the numerous friends of 'the Journeyman Mason.' We see no fear of Mr Miller falling into the error deprecated by Pope—"To pen a stanza when he should engross"—and as the blasts of winter have now come into play, the mug counting

house and the pen will be no unacceptable exchange for the hillside and the mallet."

December 10.—The lands of Glendale, in the Isle of Skye, were lately exposed to sale at £7513, being 26 years' purchase, and were sold at £8620, about 30 years' purchase.

December 17.—The Inverness Town Council met, and after recording their appreciation of the services of the retiring Provost, elected as his successor the senior Bailie, Mr John Fraser. This gentleman was the father of the late Rev. Dr Donald Fraser, of Inverness and Marylebone. In accepting office, the new Provost said "he had the misfortune to be elected at a period of great political excitement, and he feared he must come far short of the expectation of some of his friends in this respect; for he must acknowledge it was his own sense of propriety that he would best consult the honour and efficiency of his station by abstaining from taking any prominent or active part in the present political contest."

December 24.—This issue contains a list of the new Ministers, headed by Sir Robert Peel as First Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer. It also contains Peel's address to the electors of Tamworth, which formed his manifesto. A dissolution of Parliament was known to be imminent, and candidates were busy. Mr Edward Ellice, junior (afterwards member for the St Andrews Burghs), had resolved to contest the Inverness Burghs with Major Cumming Bruce of Dunphail. In Ross-shire the candidates were Mr Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth and Mr Thomas Mackenzie of Applecross. The seats of Mr Macleod, yr. of Cadboll, for Sutherland, of Mr James Loch for the Northern Burghs, and of Mr George Sinclair for Caithness, were believed to be secure.

Ibid.—The property of Torbreck, near Inverness, was sold to the trustees of the late Colonel Baillie of Leys for £23,000, or about thirty-three years' purchase of the free rental. The estate of Aberlour was purchased at a public roup by Mr Grant, late of Jamaica, for £15,000.

December 31.—The Editor of the "Courier" in this issue gives the first notice of "a curious old Manuscript history," now known as the Wardlaw Manuscript. He published extracts from it in the paper, and afterwards included them in his Highland Notebook. This interesting Manuscript has now been published by the Scottish History Society, under the editorship of Mr William Mackay, solicitor, Inverness. The volume was shown in 1903 at the Highland and Jacobite Exhibition.

No. XI.

The year 1835 was a stormy time in politics. The dismissal of the Whig Ministry by the King in the Autumn of 1834 was resented in the country, and the new Parliament, elected in the beginning of 1835, still gave a majority to the Whigs, though not so large as before. Sir Robert Peel, as Prime Minister and Conservative leader, fought a long and gallant fight in the House of Commons. He was defeated once and again before he resigned office on the 8th of April, and it was universally acknowledged that he went out with a higher reputation than when he entered. During the struggle, Lord John Russell proved an active and capable leader of Opposition, and so greatly rose in public estimation.

Lord Melbourne again became head of the Whig Government as Prime Minister; Lord John Russell became Home Secretary and leader of the Commons; Lord Palmerston became Foreign Minister; and Charles Grant, raised to the peerage as Lord Glenelg, became Secretary for the Colonies. There was one notable change: Lord Brougham was not asked to join the new Government, and the Great Seal was placed for a time in Commission. Brougham imagined that the omission would be temporary, but his old colleagues did not care to have him, and he was never asked to take office again. The session was notable for discussions on Irish Church affairs and for much oratory from Daniel O'Connell. It was made a reproach to the Whig Government that he gave it his support. The bill for the reform of the English Municipal Corporations was violently opposed in the Lords, and nearly led to a quarrel between the Houses. It was passed at last as the result of a compromise.

Events in Parliament are reflected in our local annals. On the dissolution of Parliament Charles Grant had a stubborn fight for the representation of the County of Inverness, and only held the seat by seven votes against Macleod of Macleod. Soon after the contest Macleod died. When the new Whig Ministry was formed it was not considered desirable that Grant should again contest the seat. Accordingly he became Lord Glenelg. For the vacancy in Inverness-shire, there was a contest between The Chisholm, in the Con-

servative interest, and Mr J. M. Grant of Glenmoriston, in the Liberal. Chisholm proved successful by a substantial majority.

From the "Inverness Courier."

1835.

January 7.—The proclamation for dissolving Parliament was signed on the 29th December, and the writs for the new Parliament were made returnable on 10th February. For the next fortnight there was unusual agitation and excitement, in which the Highland constituencies participated.

January 14.—There is a long report of the nomination of candidates for the Inverness District of Burghs. The hustings were set up on the Exchange. Mr Mackintosh of Geddes proposed the re-election of Major Cumming-Bruce of Dunphail, which was seconded by Mr Gilzean of Bunachton. Captain Mackay of Hedgefield proposed Mr Edward Ellice, junior, the motion being seconded by Provost Fraser. Both candidates having spoken, a show of hands was taken, when Sheriff Edwards declared that there was a majority for Mr Ellice. A poll was demanded on behalf of Major Cumming-Bruce.

Ibid.—The season had been exceptionally mild until the close of the first week in January, when there was a fall of snow, accompanied by sharp, crisp frost. The weather was not unacceptable to the farmer, and, indeed, the editor thought that no class had reason to complain, except those who figured at the hustings. "It is no easy task at any time for provincial orators and patriots to keep a crowd of people fast chained in silence, and it must be peculiarly difficult at a time when the head, feet, and hands throb with cold, and every ray of eloquence is in danger of being intercepted and absorbed by a fall of snow." On the day of the Inverness nominations, however, the frost had disappeared, and the weather was comparatively mild.

Ibid.—"We understand that after the usual examination Mr Charles Stewart, of this town, was on Thursday last admitted a solicitor before the Sheriff and other Courts in this county, and that he intends to practise in Inverness."

January 21.—On the 17th inst. candidates were nominated for the county of Inverness. The re-election of the Right Hon. Charles Grant was proposed by Mr Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch, and seconded by Mr Fraser of

Lovat. The second candidate, Macleod of Macleod, was prevented by severe indisposition from attending, but a body of his friends marched to the hustings. Macleod was nominated by Chisholm of Chisholm, and seconded by Cluny Macpherson. On previous occasions The Chisholm had supported Mr Grant, and the latter expressed regret at his change of sentiments. This Mr Grant seems to have felt more keenly, as he had been one of Chisholm's guardians. Mr Grant delivered a long and eloquent speech, in course of which he emphasized the idea that "the true conservative principle is wise and seasonable improvement." (See Northern Highlands, volume I., page 273.)

Ibid.—The contest in the Inverness Burghs resulted in the return of Major Cumming-Bruce by the narrow majority of four votes. The numbers were—Cumming-Bruce, 344; Ellice, 340. Forres was the stronghold of Major Cumming-Bruce. In all the other burghs he was in a minority, though in Inverness only a minority of one. The contest was fought with extraordinary keenness, and charges of bribery and intimidation were freely exchanged between the supporters of the two candidates.

Ibid.—In the Elgin Burghs there was a contest between Colonel Leith Hay, Liberal, and Brodie of Brodie, Conservative. Colonel Leith Hay was returned by a majority of 120. Mr Macleod, yr. of Cadboll, was returned unopposed for the county of Sutherland; Mr James Loch for the Northern Burghs; and the Hon. Colonel Grant of Grant for the united counties of Elgin and Nairn. For the county of Ross two candidates were nominated, Mr Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth, Liberal, and Mr Mackenzie of Applecross, Conservative.

January 28.—The contest in the county of Inverness terminated in favour of Mr Charles Grant, but only by a majority of seven. The figures were—Grant, 260; Macleod, 253. The polling extended over two days, and there was a snow-storm at the time. The contest in Ross-shire resulted in the return of Seaforth by a majority of 40 (234 votes against 194).

February 4.—This issue contains the reports of two political dinners in Inverness. One was given on 26th January in the Northern Meeting Rooms to the Right Hon. Charles Grant. Mr J. M. Grant of Glenmoriston was in the chair. The second was given in the same place on 30th January to Major Cumming-Bruce. Mr Robertson of Aultnaskiach was in the chair. The following week Major Cumming-Bruce was entertained at Forres.

February 11.—“The Highland Society have awarded their gold medal to George Dempster, Esq. of Skibo, for a report founded on experiments of plantations made by him within the last five years on his estates in Sutherland. The extent of these within this time is above 1100 acres, and the number of trees planted about three millions. These plantations are numerous and of very unequal size, but the most important one is a tract of above 800 acres, and comprehending the greater part of that rocky ridge between Bonar-Bridge and the River Shin, which must be familiar to all acquainted with that country.”

February 25.—Parliament met, and parties had their first trial of strength on the question of the election of the Speaker. The Liberals, who were in Opposition, succeeded in electing Mr Abercromby, by 316 votes against the Ministerial candidate, Sir Charles Manners Sutton, who received 306 votes.

March 4.—The Editor of the “Quarterly Journal of Agriculture” was at this time strongly urging the introduction of “public mechanical carriages,” to be driven by steam on the highways, which he wished to have altered for the purpose. His idea was premature. The day of the motor car was a long way off.

Ibid.—Ministers were beaten on the Address by a majority of seven, but Sir Robert Peel still declined to resign.

March 18.—There was a combined meeting of the members of the Northern Institution and the Directors of the Royal Academy. The Museum had by this time been transferred to the Academy directors. Among the contributions made at this meeting was “a beautiful and extensive collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils from the neighbourhood of Cromarty,” presented by Mr Hugh Miller. The General Secretary, Mr Anderson, explained the geological structure of the Moray Firth, with special reference to the lias deposits. Along with the recognised specimens was a collection of fossil fishes, which Mr Miller had recently discovered in one of the upper beds of the Old Red Sandstone, close to the town of Cromarty. The Secretary read an extract from Miller’s Traditions of Cromarty, then in the press, descriptive of the geology of the district.

March 25.—Dr Gray, who bequeathed £20,000 to build and endow a hospital at Elgin, left another considerable sum to his wife. This lady, who had died recently, bequeathed £4000 for the purpose of building a new church in Elgin.

April 1.—Macleod of Macleod, who contested the county of Inverness with the Right Hon. Charles Grant, died at Altyre House, near Forres, on the 25th ult., in his 47th year. "The honourable gentleman had been for some months indisposed; and though unable to appear on the hustings as a candidate at the last election, he exerted himself very much in the canvass, during the most stormy and inclement weather. This laid the seeds of an illness under which, after various partial recoveries and relapses, he has prematurely sunk." Macleod had promoted a petition to set aside the return of Mr Grant, but it was understood that it would now be dropped. For a time Macleod sat in the House of Commons as representative for the burgh of Sudbury, in Suffolk. "His strong desire, however, was to represent his native county in Parliament, and to this object he had directed all his energies for upwards of ten years, devoting to it no small share of his life and fortune. In 1818 he concurred with the late Glengarry in the election of Mr C. Grant (whom he afterwards so often and so strenuously opposed), when the right hon. gentleman was first returned member for this county; but even at this time Macleod confessed that it was 'an object of his early ambition to enjoy the station, as representative for Inverness-shire, which so many of his immediate ancestors had filled for a length of time.' Mr Grant on all occasions expressed his high regard for his opponent, and admitted that his personal virtues, his name and long line of ancestry, rendered the representation of his native county to him a fair object of honourable ambition." The remains of the chief were conveyed to Dunvegan, in Skye.

April 15.—The resignation of Sir Robert Peel's Government is announced. It is acknowledged that the spirit and ability with which Sir Robert had carried on the fight had "extorted the praises of his most bitter opponents."

Ibid.—The number contains the first account of a murder which created great excitement in the district. The body of a middle-aged woman was found in a ruined hut in a plantation on the heights of Kilcoy, in the Black Isle. It had been covered up with turf and stones, but a party of women and children sent to work in the plantation observed a glove, part of a veil, and the point of a shoe protruding. The story, as ultimately put together, was a singular one. The dead body was that of Jane Brechin, a woman from Mon-

trose, about fifty years of age, and her murderer was a man John Adam or Adame, originally from the same district, and thirty-one years of age, who was living at the time of the murder in Dingwall, under the name of John Anderson. Adam and Jane Brechin had been fellow servants at Montrose about nine years before, and had been spoken of as sweet-hearts, in spite of the disparity of their years. Adam however, disappeared and enlisted, and while his regiment was stationed in Derbyshire he won the affections of a girl named Elliot, whom he persuaded to elope with him under promise of marriage. He did not fulfil his promise, but they travelled northward till they reached Dingwall, where they lived together as Mr and Mrs Anderson, the man working as a labourer. They took up their abode there about a year before the murder. Meantime Jane Brechin had started a small shop in Montrose, and had some money in bank. There she was found about Martinmas 1834 by Adam, who had paid a visit to the place. He stated to the woman that he was a sawyer at Inverness, and that if she married him he would take a shop for her there. Against the advice of her friends, who thought Adam too young and "no like her ava," the poor woman consented to the union, and Adam returned to Montrose in March 1835 and married. She had sold off her stock and drawn from the bank £113. The couple came to Inverness, where Adam took lodgings in Chapel Street; but he must have changed his story by this time, as he told his wife he had to go to Beauly. He revisited her several times, and having told her and the persons with whom she stayed that he had taken a house between Tarradale and Redcastle, they left Inverness one evening and took the boat across Kessock Ferry. The woman was never again seen alive. Adam did not care to take her to Dingwall, where he was living as a married man. When he was apprehended a sum of £75 was found under his pillow. Adam is described as an exceedingly handsome man, six feet one high. He denied his guilt, and maintained a cheerful and buoyant demeanour. The cool and unconcerned attitude of the man was one of the extraordinary features of the case.

Ibid.—"The news of the resignation of the Peel Ministry having reached Elgin on Saturday afternoon, the church and jail bells rang a merry peal, by the order of the Magistrates and Town Council: the greatest enthusiasm and joy prevailed among the inhabitants at

the prospect of a Liberal Ministry being restored to power."

April 22.—The formation of the new Government is announced. Lord Melbourne became Prime Minister, Lord John Russell, Home Secretary; Lord Palmerston, Foreign Secretary; and Mr Charles Grant, Secretary for the Colonies. There was no mention of Lord Brougham, and it was soon discovered that he was not to be a member of the Government. Preparations were in progress in the county of Inverness on the understanding that Charles Grant was to be raised to the peerage.

April 29.—The news having arrived in Lochaber that Lady Vere Cameron had given birth to an heir to the family of Lochiel, great rejoicings took place. The tacksmen and clergy on the estates, "from Ballachulish Ferry to the marches of Knoydart," met and dined together on the 16th inst., at the Neptune Inn, Banavie, to celebrate the occasion. The 23rd was selected for the lighting of bonfires, which blazed on many a prominent peak. "There could not be fewer than 2000 persons present at the bonfires, all of whom were plentifully, though not improperly, supplied with mountain dew, by the munificence of Lochiel, to drink health and prosperity to the young chief of the Camerons."

Ibid.—The contest for the representation of the county of Inverness had now begun. Mr J. M. Murray Grant of Glenmoriston was the Liberal candidate, and Chisholm of Chisholm the Conservative.

May 6.—Colonel Leith Hay was re-elected member for the Elgin District of Burghs. He had been appointed Clerk of the Ordnance.

Ibid.—"We understand that Lord Southampton has taken the shootings, hunting, and fishings of Lochbroom, on the property of Duncan Davidson, Esq. of Tulloch. This is a very extensive range, embracing a considerable portion of hilly country, and supplies abundance of red deer, grouse, and black game. The River Broom is also an excellent angling stream."

May 13.—The Right Hon. Charles Grant was gazetted to the peerage under the title of Baron Glenelg of Glenelg, in the county of Inverness.

Ibid.—The nomination of candidates for the county is reported in full. Mr Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch proposed Mr Grant of Glenmoriston, the motion being seconded by Rev. Mr Beith. Mr Mackintosh of Geddes nominated the Chisholm, and Mr Walker of Crawfordtown seconded. The polling began

on the 11th, and all the returns had not been received when the paper went to press. It was known, however, that The Chisholm had been returned. The next issue gave the figures as follows:—For Chisholm, 268; for Glenmoriston, 240; majority for the Conservative candidate, 28. If Macleod had lived, there was an impression that he would have been elected without a contest. This, however, seems hardly credible, when one perceives the heat which the contest between Chisholm and Glenmoriston evolved. There was no disorder, but much angry recrimination.

Ibid.—There was a long discussion in the Synod of Moray on the question of the funds of the Established Church of Ireland. Rev. Mr Clark, Inverness, moved a series of resolutions denouncing the proposal to apply any portion of these funds to any other than religious and Protestant purposes. Mr Matheson, of Kilmuir, seconded. Rev. Mr Fraser, of Kirkhill, considered that the motion would be interpreted as political, and that it was inexpedient for the Synod to range itself on the side of a political party. He moved that the resolutions be not adopted, and was seconded by Mr Brodie of Lethen. On a division thirty members of the Synod voted for Mr Clark's motion, and only three for Mr Fraser's.

Ibid.—It is incidentally mentioned, in an article on Lord Brougham, that "he wrote seventeen long letters with his own hand within four hours after his memorable speech in Inverness, all which were duly forwarded by 'that night's post.'"

May 20.—"The Town Council of Nairn held lately a special meeting for the purpose of congratulating John Cunninghame, Esq., advocate, late Sheriff of Nairnshire, on his promotion to the high office of Solicitor-General; on which occasion he was admitted a freeman burgess and guild brother of the ancient burgh. In the record of Mr Cunninghame's admission, the Council express their high sense of his honourable and independent conduct as a judge, during his connection with the burgh and county, and their respect for his private character."

May 20.—"The Inverness Packet left Burghhead on Thursday, 23rd April, for London, where she arrived on the 27th of that month—discharged her cargo there, and having unloaded, sailed on the 7th inst., and arrived at Burghhead on the morning of the 12th—having been, on her passage, up and down, only nine days, exclusive of the time she was detained in London. The vessel had full cargoes on both trips."

May 27.—This issue contains a review of Hugh Miller's first important prose work, "Scenes and Legends of the North of Scotland." The reviewer expresses the opinion that the book "places the author among the best popular writers of the day."

June 3.—In the General Assembly Dr Chalmers reported on the liberal support given to his scheme of Church Extension. A majority of Presbyteries transmitted overtures approving of the Veto Act. Generally there was at this time great activity in connection with Church affairs. The Irish Church question was hotly discussed during the recent election for the county of Inverness.

June 10.—Two petitions were presented on the 2nd inst. in the House of Commons against the return of The Chisholm. One was by Glenmoriston and the other by Sir David Brewster and Hugh Davidson of Cantray, electors. The same evening Chisholm took his seat in the House.

Ibid.—Disease threatened the potato crop. There had been a partial failure the previous year.

Ibid.—The Provost of Forres, Mr Gordon, died in Glasgow. His remains were taken home, and the following issue describes the funeral.

June 24.—The death of William Cobbett is recorded. A column is devoted to a sketch of his career. "His laborious life, chequered by so many strange vicissitudes, terminated on Thursday last at the ripe age of seventy-three. His death will cause a blank in the world of English politicians and periodical writers. Perhaps no man in Britain was better known, down to the minutest circumstance in his history, character, habits, and opinions." Now Cobbett is all but forgotten.

July 1.—Adam, the man charged with the murder of his wife, was cheerful in prison, but he had a grievance. "He complained grievously to us one day of the heavy irons on his body, and wished to have them taken off for a part of the day, that he might be allowed to walk about the passages in front of his cell. This reasonable request has since been complied with." There seems to have been considerable freedom of intercourse with prisoners in those days.

July 8.—A new taste seems to have sprung up for the more valuable and curiously fine patterns of clan tartan for ladies' dresses, &c. Mr Macdougall, draper, here, has an immense variety of the different patterns, some of them exceedingly rich and beautiful. Lord Brougham and others have rendered them

fashionable in London, and orders to a great amount for them have been executed in Inverness."

Ibid.—The issue contains the first of a series of sketches by the editor, giving an account of a trip from Inverness to Oban, Iona, and Staffa. In the same number it is stated that a proposal had been made to appropriate part of the buildings at Fort-George to the purposes of a central prison for the Northern Counties. This idea never bore fruit, but prisoners were actually confined in the Fort.

Ibid.—"On the 27th June a gentleman angling in Loch-Moy caught a salmon with a small trout fly, which weighed upwards of 10 lbs. This is the first instance of a salmon taken in Loch-Moy, and the wonder is how it could possibly get there." Loch-Moy drains into the Findhorn, but the stream is small.

July 15.—The petition against the return of The Chisholm as member for the county of Inverness was rejected by the Committee of the House of Commons appointed to hear the case. The point at issue was whether voters from the Grantown district, "which is totally separated from Inverness-shire, being surrounded by the counties of Moray and Nairn," were entitled to vote. The number from that district who had voted for Chisholm was 29, and his majority in the contest was 28. The petitioners founded on a clause in the Reform Act which provided "that all properties lying locally within the limits of any county shall, for the purposes of this Act, be held to be part of the county with which they are locally included." The Parliamentary Committee, however, held that no vote could be questioned by a Committee of the House of Commons which had not been objected to previously at the local Courts of Registration. This decision disposed of the case for the petitioners.

Ibid.—The Sheep and Wool Market held the previous week had proved a very stiff one, though in the end an average amount of business was done. "Last year prices were too high for the purchasers both of wool and sheep, and this year there has been a reduction of about 4s per stone on Cheviot wool, 6s on the double stone of blackfaced, and 3s on Cheviot widders per head. Ewes were greatly in demand, and the unfavourable spring having operated very injuriously in some of the districts, lambs were scarce and fetched good prices." Cheviot widders fetched from 22s to 27s 6d; blackfaced from 15s to 18s 9d; Cheviot ewes from 18s to

20s 6d; blackfaced from 10s to 13s; Cheviot lambs from 8s to 11s; blackfaced from 7s to 8s. Cheviot washed wool per stone fetched from 19s to 20s 6d; unwashed 15s to 16s; blackfaced per double stone 19s to 20s 6d; cross, unwashed, 12s to 14s; do. washed, 14s to 15s. "In order to improve their flocks, twelve of our principal sheep farmers last year agreed to have a show of tups at this market, after which they were to make arrangements for exchanging them. The exhibition took place on Thursday, when Mr Shirreff, Barnyards; Mr Laidlaw, Knockfin; Mr Sellar, Morvich; Mr Gentle, Dell; and Mr Mac-tavish, Garthbeg, produced some fine specimens of one and two-year-old tups. It would be highly to the advantage of the different flocks in the North if this exhibition were continued."

Ibid.—"The estate of Glentromie, in Badenoch, was purchased on Wednesday last by Mr Baillie of Bristol (formerly M.P. for that city) for the sum of £7350. This was £2050 above the upset price, and is said to be an instance of the highest price ever given for land in the Highlands."

Ibid.—In connection with the announcement of the appointment of James Loch, M.P., as Deputy-Governor of the British Fishery Society, in place of William Smith, deceased, the opportunity is taken of commemorating Mr Smith's interest in the Highlands. He was long and honourably known as M.P. for Norwich, and was associated with the labours of Romilly, Wilberforce, and Sir James Mackintosh. But in addition to this, we are told that few men were so zealous as Mr Smith in forwarding every object connected with the improvement of the North of Scotland. "This was exemplified in the establishment of Pulteneytown, Wick, and the harbour there, and the active part he took in the promotion of the Highland roads and bridges and the Caledonian Canal. The time he devoted to these objects, in attending meetings, and in consulting and corresponding with individuals and public bodies, was immense, and would have formed almost sufficient employment, without reference to other duties, for many a public man less benevolent, persevering, and enthusiastic."

July 22.—An appeal is made for funds for the Nairn Academy. In 1832 one class-room had been fitted up and opened. A second class-room had been erected at the same time, and it was now proposed to fit it up and make further educational provision.

July 29.—This issue contains a memorial sketch of Mr Evan Baillie of Dochfour, who had recently passed away at the age of 95. "He had witnessed the battle of Culloden, when a boy, from the heights above Dochfour; he had served in the army in the reign of George the Second; he was three times returned as representative in Parliament for the ancient city of Bristol; he was one of the very few men in our day who has met at one interview with Burke, Johnson, and Reynolds; and after a long, active, and successful public life, he had the rare felicity to return to his native country, blessed with health and affluence, to spend the evening of his days in quiet retirement among the scenes of his birth." Going into details, the writer states that Mr Baillie entered the army as ensign at the age of fifteen, and was employed on active service abroad, especially in the West Indies. He was at the siege of Havannah in 1762. On the restoration of peace, seeing no prospect of promotion, he retired from the army, and embarked in the West Indian trade, finally settling at Bristol, which he afterwards represented in Parliament. By the death of his elder brother in 1799, Mr Baillie succeeded to the family property of Dochfour, and resided there during the last twenty years of his life. "Mr Baillie was a perfect model of the gentleman of the old school; tall and handsome in his person, of polished manners, and of the most punctilious honour and correctness in all his transactions and intercourse with society."

Ibid.—A report prepared by Mr Maclean, Mr Mitchell, and Mr May, was submitted to the Town Council for the improvement of the banks of the river. It provided a handsome walk between the Stone Bridge and the Islands on each side, "and an ample carriage-way along the bank between the two bridges." Also, we are told, "it provides for the uniformity, strength, and beauty of the banks, and suggests a general improvement calculated altogether to combine utility and ornament, and to promote the safety and comfort of the inhabitants." The expense was estimated at £1200, and the question of ways and means was a matter of serious consideration.

Ibid.—The Presbytery of Inverness met to consider the constitution of the proposed new church for Inverness (the West Church). The town ministers, through Rev. Mr Clark, had submitted a plan to the Assembly, which had given it a qualified approbation, and remitted the subject to the Presbytery. The question was whether the church should be subject to

a general Session, comprising all the ministers of the town, or should have a separate constitution. The town ministers were in favour of a general Session, and their motion was carried by a majority of one.

August 5.—The Northern Missionary Society held its annual meeting at Dingwall. The collection amounted to £17 12s 7½d; subscriptions and donations, £35 9s 6d; total, £53 2s 11½d.

Ibid.—A Prussian vessel foundered recently off the island of St Kilda, and the crew of eleven got safe to land. They remained a fortnight before finding an opportunity of crossing to Skye. "The expenses of these eleven men for fourteen days, including board, lodging, and all conveniences, amounted to just five shillings." The islanders nowadays have a better knowledge of the value of money.

Ibid.—The right of shooting and fishing over the upper district of Strathconon, in Ross-shire, is advertised to let. It is stated that grouse were most abundant, and there were ptarmigan on several of the hills. The ground had been let for three years previously, and its tenants certified that it afforded excellent sport. One of them wrote that an ordinary shot might with great ease bag 20 brace of grouse a day, and he also said that "he and one companion killed 13 brace of ptarmigan in about half-an-hour." A shooting lodge was in course of erection.

Ibid.—There is a list of sportsmen at shooting quarters in the Highlands. The number of names given is about forty, but the list does not profess to be exhaustive.

August 19.—"Eighty-eight boxes of game have during the week passed through the coach office here, and a considerable number have been sent South by the Caledonian coach along the Highland road. On the evening of the Twelfth a box was forwarded to his Majesty from Inverness, believed to be from Lady Saltoun. Several were sent to the Duke of Wellington, the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, Lady Blessington, the Bishop of Norwich, and other personages of rank and distinction."

Ibid.—"We understand that Lord Glenelg, Secretary for the Colonies, has appointed our townsman, John Anderson, Esq., W.S., Special Justice of the Island of St Vincent. Mr Anderson has been long and favourably known as the Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, to whose Transactions he has contributed various papers. He is also the author of a History of the Clan Fraser, and other works illustrative of the Highlands."

August 26.—The following is quoted from an Edinburgh paper:—"The plan and regulations proposed by the ministers of Inverness for a new church in that important and influential quarter of the Highlands of Scotland, were approved unanimously by last General Assembly; and in terms of a remit from last Assembly the Commission have just decreed and ordained that the same arrangement shall be binding on the future as well as on the present ministers of Inverness; and that the new church shall be in all respects on the same footing as the two original Parish Churches. No appearance was made on behalf of a minority of the Presbytery, who, in the Court below, endeavoured to oppose a scheme which has now received the final sanction of the Church of Scotland." Subscriptions are intimated for the new building, amounting to £810.

September 2.—"Dr John M'Culloch, author of the celebrated *Tour in the Highlands*, and other works, met with his death last week in a very melancholy manner. He was thrown out of a gig at Penzance, in Cornwall, and his foot caught in the wheel, by which his leg was broken in two places, and also some of his ribs. Amputation was resorted to, but in a short time mortification ensued, and death terminated his existence. It is scarcely three months since he was married. Dr M'Culloch was an able geologist, and as a general writer distinguished for learning and acuteness; but his work on the Highlands is disfigured by the grossest prejudice and misrepresentation."

Ibid.—The Rev. Finlay Cook, late of Inverness, was on Wednesday, the 19th ult., inducted by the Presbytery of Caithness into the pastoral charge of the parish of Reay. Owing to the number of people present, the services of the day were held out of doors.

September 9.—The Duke of Sutherland and his young son, the Marquis of Stafford (aged seven), were presented with the freedom of the burgh of Tain. The Duke had recently acquired property in the neighbourhood.

Ibid.—"About thirty recruits were enlisted here for the auxiliary forces, under General Evans, in support of the Queen of Spain. Only ten, however, have actually gone; they sailed to Greenock via the Caledonian Canal. The remaining twenty were found missing in the hour of cause, and will probably (to the great regret of the police) continue in the town." The struggle was then going on between the Carlists and the forces of Queen Christina.

General De Lacy Evans commanded a British contingent.

September 16.—Mr Grant of Corrimony, "the father of the Scottish bar," died at Lakefield, Glen-Urquhart, on the previous Sunday. He was in his 93rd year. "Mr Grant was an accomplished scholar and antiquary, and, what is not often united to these qualities, he was a first-rate musician, both vocal and instrumental. He was author of a work on the Origin of the Gael, and he also wrote treatises on the origin of language and society. He was early distinguished for his liberal political principles, and associated with Henry Erskine and other eminent men of that day, and subsequently with Sir James Mackintosh, Mr Horner, &c. He retained his faculties to the last, and from the extent and variety of his attainments was a delightful companion."

Ibid.—The close of a stormy session of Parliament is recorded. The bill for the reform of the English corporations excited great controversy, and was only passed at last by the Commons accepting certain amendments pressed upon them by the Lords.

Ibid.—The same issue contains an account of a disturbance which took place in the town of Dingwall in 1730. The story appears to be compiled from the Corporation records.

September 23.—There is a long report of the trial, at the Inverness Circuit Court, of John Adam for the murder of his wife, Jean Brechin, on the heights of Kilcoy, in the Black Isle. The circumstances have already been given in these Notes. The prisoner had issued three declarations. The discrepancies between the first two and the third were so marked as to form by themselves strong presumptive evidence against him. Besides this, there was abundant and conclusive evidence. The jury brought in a unanimous verdict of guilty, and the prisoner was sentenced to death. At the same circuit there was an important civil case relating to the will of one Alexander Mackenzie, Fortrose. The will was sustained.

September 30.—At the Northern Meeting the Duke of St Albans and Lord Frederick Beauclerk were present wearing the Highland dress. The Meeting nominally extended over three days, but the actual days were Thursday and Friday. On Friday forenoon the company were entertained at Dochfour with a boat race, rifle practice, and pigeon shooting. "The rifle shooting was at a hundred yards' distance, and though Captain Horatio Ross of Rossie was one of the marksmen, the palm

of victory was carried off by Cluny Macpherson." The example of Mr Baillie is commended to the attention of neighbouring proprietors. "Since the disuse of horse-racing, our visitors have had no morning amusement during their attendance here, and the want of it has been sensibly felt."

Ibid.—The Commissioners of the Scots Burghs had published part of their Local Reports, extending alphabetically from Arbroath to Fortrose. Several items are extracted in this issue. Dingwall suffered from a debt, amounting to £2367. Part of it consisted of a sum of £800 of damages, which the burgh had incurred through alleged failure in the custody of a prisoner confined for debt. This charge Seaforth had undertaken to pay. The greater part of the balance consisted of law expenses in connection with a fishing process. Dingwall had an average rental from fishing and lands of £273 7s 2d, and an expenditure of £181 14s 10d. The kirk-officer was stated to have a salary of five shillings a year! Dornoch rejoiced in the annual income of £3 15s, being the rent of the burgh links and the amount of the customs and market dues. It paid £40 3s 4d yearly to the Town-Clerk and officers, the difference having been made up for many years by the Duke of Sutherland. The burgh of Forres had the handsome income, for its size, of £619 19s 9d, considerably more than half of which arose from land rents. The total expenditure, including improvements, charities, &c., came to £528 18s 10d, and there were no local taxes. This was surely a happy burgh! On the other hand, the burgh of Fortrose was entirely in the hands of a person named Roderick Macfarquhar, who for twenty-three years had "managed its affairs exclusively, suffering no one to participate with him in power." This gentleman was able for some reason to act as a local monarch. "On one occasion, it is related, a party in the Council voted against Mr Macfarquhar, and he turned out the whole opposing members, five the first year and two the next, stating that 'as they could not agree in politics, a separation was desirable.'" He put in a rather heavy pecuniary claim against the burgh, and this may have been the secret of his ascendancy.

October 7.—No fewer than four otters appeared in the River Ness under the Old Stone Bridge. A crowd gathered and several shots were fired. One otter was killed, the rest escaping. The paragraph states that the River Ness was at times much infested with otters.

Ibid.—A sheep farmer, Thomas Hall, was drowned in the River More, in Gildermory, Ross-shire. He was crossing a ford on horseback on a stormy night, when a great body of water rushed down the river, carrying away horse and rider. They were swept into Loch-More.

October 14.—A "grand promenade" was held in the Ness Islands on Saturday, the 10th inst. It was arranged by the Committee which had been carrying out the improvements of the islands. Communication with both banks of the river had now been completed by the erection of suitable bridges; the two islands had also been joined by a new bridge, and the walks trimmed up. The promenade came off with success, though the day was showery. Proceedings began at four o'clock. The programme included the performances of a band and piper, and a display of fireworks prepared and superintended by Mr Gynghill, of the Royal Gardens, Vauxhall. The proceeds were applied to the Improvement Fund. Admission was—for ladies and gentlemen, 2s; for children and servants, 1s; and there were from 300 to 400 present.

October 21.—John Adam was executed on the previous Friday for the Mullbuy murder. His character was one of singular hardihood. He slept soundly the night before his death, and in his waking hours talked with his warders about his adventures in the army and other indifferent topics. The execution took place at the Longman. Owing to the density of the crowd the culprit was conveyed in a carriage. He was dressed in a long camlet black coat, provided for the occasion. The spectators numbered over 8000 persons. Adam to the end refused to confess his crime. Afterwards, however, it turned out that he had acknowledged it to a fellow-prisoner, to be made known after his death. His execution was the last to take place at Inverness.

October 28.—It is stated that a striking instance of the increased value of Highland pastoral districts occurred the previous week in the sale of the Cromartie lands, in Ross-shire. The Fannich lot, rented at £180 per annum, sold for £6550, about thirty-seven years' purchase. The Lochbroom lot sold for £9200, being thirty-four years' purchase. The sale took place at Edinburgh, and was pretty sharply contested. The upset price of the two was £13,150; it rose £2000 higher, when the two lots were knocked down at £15,756, to Mr Murdoch Mackenzie, late of Ardross, then of Dundonell. The editor says that a very few

years before these prices would have been considered ruinous. He attributes the rise to the prosperity of sheep-farming and the improved means of communication. Sport had also by this time come to be a considerable asset. "Even unconquerable barrenness," we are informed, "is now turned to good account. At the present moment, we believe, many Highland proprietors derive a greater revenue from their moors alone, for grouse shooting, than their whole rental amounted to sixty years since. The passion entertained by English gentlemen for field-sports has been fostered by the increased means of communication northwards, and up and down the country, from the highest hill to the deepest and most distant glen. The sportsman throws himself into a steamer at London, and in forty-eight hours or less he is in Edinburgh or Aberdeen. Another day and he is in the heart of moor and mountain, where he may shoot, saunter, or angle to his heart's content." The country inns had by this time vastly improved.

Ibid.—On the previous Wednesday the electors of the combined counties of Ross and Cromarty, resident in Dingwall and neighbourhood, entertained their representative, J. A. Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth, to a public dinner in the Caledonian Hotel, Dingwall. There was a crowded attendance, and many speeches were delivered. The dinner was mostly political. Mr Roderick Macleod, yr. of Cadboll, M.P. for Sutherland, was in the chair. Major Gilchrist of Ospisdale and Captain Sutherland of Udoll were croupiers.

Ibid.—The Rev. Alexander Duff, who had just received the degree of D.D. from Marischal College, Aberdeen, addressed a meeting in the High Church on the subject of India. The address made a powerful impression. A collection at the close amounted to £42 18s

November 4.—There is an article on railways, which were now being promoted at a great rate. It is stated that no fewer than thirty-two companies had recently been projected. The formation of lines connecting London with important provincial centres was in contemplation. The newspapers were apprehensive of the results of this "fever of speculation."

Ibid.—The ferry boat in the Meikle Ferry struck on an anchor within fifteen or twenty yards of the shore, on the Tain side, and filled. There were seventeen persons on board, and their lives were in great danger. One passenger, Mr J. H. Richardson, a shipping secretary from North Shields, attempted to swim ashore, but was carried away and drowned.

A ferryman managed to swim to a small boat moored in the neighbourhood, and so rescued the rest of the passengers.

November 11.—Mr John Fraser (father of the late Dr Donald Fraser) was re-elected Provost of Inverness.

Ibid.—It appears from the report of a county meeting in Ross-shire that eight men, convicted of assault, had been sentenced to imprisonment at Fort-George. This was because there was no proper gaol in Dingwall. The meeting, by a majority, agreed to advance alimient, claiming the right of relief against "the said prisoners, the burgh of Dingwall, the Board of Excise, and all concerned."

November 18.—"On Wednesday last Mackintosh of Mackintosh removed from Daviot House to Moy Hall, the beautiful residence of his ancestors, which had for several years been occupied by the late Dowager Lady Mackintosh, who held a life-rent of the family mansion." The tenantry turned out and gave the chief a hearty welcome, and in the evening the hills were lighted up with bonfires. Lady Mackintosh died on the 17th ult. She was the widow of Sir Aeneas Mackintosh, and daughter of Sir Ludovick Grant of Dalvey.

December 2.—The death of James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, is announced, and the poet is made the subject of an interesting article.

Ibid.—An Auxiliary Missionary Society had recently been formed in connection with the Presbytery of Nairn. The first annual meeting was held on the 19th ult., and it was announced that within the bounds of the Presbytery £66 1s 8d had been subscribed.

December 16.—"On Wednesday, the 9th inst., a party of the Atalanta revenue cutter, consisting of an officer and four men, whilst discharging their duty in Strathglass, were attacked by a band of smugglers, about fourteen in number, and driven back with great violence. One of the men was so severely cut and bruised about the head that it was found necessary to convey him to Inverness in a cart for surgical aid."

December 23.—The death is announced of Campbell Mackintosh of Dalmigavie, who had been 50 years acting Town-Clerk of Inverness, 25 years Collector of Taxes for Inverness-shire, and 51 years in extensive practice as procurator and land steward. He was in his 78th year. A cordial appreciation is given of his character. In the same issue it is announced that the Town Council had resolved to appoint Mr Alexander Shepperd, solicitor, as Town-Clerk in succession to Mr Mackintosh. Mr

George Cameron gave in his resignation as Town Chamberlain, and Mr Robert Smith was appointed to the office in his stead.

December 30.—Towards the close of the year the Right Hon. Sir John Sinclair, Bart., died at the age of 81. In the departments of trade, agriculture, and finance, Sir John had performed services which made him one of the conspicuous men of his time. The work by which he is now best remembered is the *Old Statistical Account of Scotland*. "This work was first commenced in 1790. It was prosecuted uninterruptedly for seven years, during which a correspondence was carried on with all the clergy of the Church of Scotland, amounting to nearly 1000; and it was brought successfully to completion by the gradual publication of twenty-one thick octavo volumes, in which a separate account is given of every parish in North Britain."

No. XII.

The year 1836 was much less exciting in Parliament than its immediate predecessor. The policy of the Government regarding the Irish Church had, however, left acute symptoms, and in the North of Scotland Protestant feeling ran high. For England the Tithes Commutation Act was passed. An important step was the reduction of the tax on newspapers from fourpence a sheet to a penny. "This reduction," says Ransome, "forms an epoch in the development of the press. For a time the gross amount of duty fell; but the circulation increased so rapidly that in 1854 the proceeds of the tax were as much as at the old rate." In this year also Parliament began to publish its own division lists. "Hitherto these had been published on hearsay and without Parliamentary authority, and the right to keep them private had been jealously guarded by members." But the constituencies called into being by the Reform Act considered that they had a right to know how their representatives voted.

Locally two changes of interest occurred: a direct service of steamers was established with London, and a daily mail coach began to run between Inverness and Perth. Up till this time there was only a passenger coach on the Highland road, running twice a week in winter and three times a week in summer. Now, we are told, with pardonable gratification, that a person "might dine in Edinburgh one day and breakfast in Inverness the next." The Duke of Gordon, the last male representative of the old line, died this year.

From the "Inverness Courier."

1836.

January 6.—A meeting was held at Inverness of what was called "The Northern Protestant Association." It had been formed to maintain Protestant interests, which were supposed to be threatened by the policy of the Government in connection with the Irish Church. Prominent men in Inverness and neighbourhood disapproved of the Association, and there was a good deal of angry controversy.

January 11.—The elders, managers, and male

communicants of the East Church met for the purpose of electing a pastor. Provost Fraser was in the chair, and moved the election of the Rev. David Campbell, minister of Glenlyon, Perthshire. Bailie George Mackay moved the election of the Rev. Archibald Cook, of Bruan. The vote stood—for Mr Campbell, 33; for Mr Cook, 25. Mr Campbell was declared duly elected. This was the beginning of a dispute which ended in the erection of the North Church.

Ibid.—A pontage of a halfpenny was charged at this time on every stranger passing the two bridges. A pontage was also levied on the peat-carts coming from the country, but their owners were turning sulky and refusing to pay. A man named Munro commenced an action for damages in the Sheriff Court against the tacksman of the Petty Customs at the Stone Bridge, who had detained his horse and cart. The case was brought before the Town Council by the tacksman, and it was agreed that, to prevent his levying a pontage on peats in future, a sum of £2 should be allowed him.

January 20.—A formidable fish was captured at Ardjachie, near Tain. It was pronounced to be a shark. Its length is given as 8 feet 1 inch and girth 4 feet 9 inches.

January 27.—It is stated that the Earl of Aboyne had recently purchased the estate of Glengarry.

Ibid.—The opening of the Ladies' Female School in its new building is reported. The United Charities Institution combined in one establishment the Work Society (for aged female industry), the Clothing Society, the Female School, the Infant School, and the Observatory. The school was opened with a procession of children. It is stated that "afterwards a number of the ladies and gentlemen visited the Observatory, when the telescope was mounted, and some other optical instruments were exhibited for the entertainment of visitors."

February 10.—"Died, at Dalbreck, on the 25th of January, George Jeffrey, Esq., late of New Kelso, in the 79th year of his age. It has fallen to the lot of few men in the world to have been so universally esteemed as Mr Jeffrey was. Neither old nor young came within the pale of his acquaintance who did not cherish an affectionate regard for him. His remains were borne a distance of forty miles, on the shoulders of his countrymen, to

the Churchyard of Lochcarron, where they were interred amidst the sorrowing regret of hundreds, who had gone through life with him, who had shared his friendship and enjoyed his society. . . . For the last fifty years his word was law in the populous country of Lochcarron."

February 24.—"We are glad to learn that Inverness has been constituted a bonding port for wines, spirits, and timber directly imported, and for all other goods carried coastwise for home consumption, with the exception of silks and tobacco. This concession by the Treasury will be highly beneficial to the trade of this town and neighbourhood." The same issue records the presentation of plate to Mr Alexander Mactavish, solicitor, in recognition of his political services to the Conservative party at the last county election.

March 2.—A new steam vessel, "The Duchess of Sutherland," had been brought to the Moray Firth, to ply between Inverness and London. She is described as a handsome, well-equipped boat, and a fast sailer. "We congratulate the public," says the editor, "on the commencement of this new source of communication, which promises to be highly advantageous to the agricultural and commercial interests of the North of Scotland."

Ibid.—The dignity of a baronet of the United Kingdom was conferred on Colin Mackenzie, Esq. of Kilcoy, with remainder to his second son, Evan Mackenzie.

March 9.—Mr Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth presented a petition to Parliament from proprietors and occupiers of land in the counties of Ross and Cromarty, complaining of agricultural distress. Among the remedies suggested by Seaforth was the removal of taxes on agricultural seeds (clover, tares, and linseed), which were then subject to duty. It was stated that the duty on clover seed alone amounted to £5600 per annum.

March 16.—The question of the election of a minister came again before a meeting in the East Church—Provost Fraser in the chair. The vote on this occasion showed 64 parishioners for Rev. Mr Campbell and 48 for Rev. Mr Cook, giving the former a majority of 16. The votes of other ten non-parishioners were tendered for Mr Cook, but the Session held that the votes of non-residents could not be received.

Ibid.—"Mr Mackintosh of Raigmore has very handsomely consented to feu out a site for

the new church on the west bank of the river, immediately opposite to Fraser Street. The situation is one of the most desirable in town, and will prove very convenient for the inhabitants of both sides of the river."

March 23.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced his intention to bring forward changes in the Stamp Acts. Among others, the newspaper stamp duty was to be reduced from 4d, with twenty per cent. discount, to one penny without discount.

Ibid.—There was great delight at the success of the first trip of the steamer *Duchess of Sutherland* from Inverness to London. One tenant in the neighbourhood had shipped 61 sheep for the London market, and realised fully 7s a head more than he could have obtained for them in the North. Another had shipped ten stots, which brought from £3 to £3 10s more than they would have realised here if they had been kept till the end of April. "These favourable sales have stirred up a desire among our Northern agriculturists to rear fat stock on an extensive scale, and we have no doubt that the trade will go on prosperously. One immediate effect will be a rise in the price of beef and mutton in our local markets, but this will only be temporary, and will be more than compensated by the increased spirit and advantage which the trade will confer on the agriculture of the whole of the North of Scotland."

March 30.—Rev. Mr Campbell, Glenlyon, has accepted the appointment of minister to the East Church, Inverness. Rev. John Kennedy, of Inverness, was ordained a fortnight before to the pastoral charge of a Congregational Church in Aberdeen. The Directors of the Sessional School at Nairn had acquired a site. Subscriptions for the school are acknowledged in several issues.

April 6.—An Indian "Nawab" was executed some time before for the murder of a brother of Mr James B. Fraser, of Reelig, Inverness-shire. There is some account of the incident in this number. A full statement of the case was written for "Blackwood" by Lord Lawrence when he was shooting tenant of Reelig in 1877. It appeared in the number of the magazine for January 1878. Lawrence was in 1836 Magistrate of an Indian district adjoining Mr Fraser's, and helped to bring the assassin to justice.

Ibid.—The Rev. Allan Mackenzie was ordained and admitted as pastor of the parish of Kilmuir-Wester.

April 13.—A meeting was held to give a fresh fillip to the Mechanics' Institution, which had to some extent languished. The Society had on hand a sum of £59, and the library contained eighty volumes. It was now expected that the institution would "enter on a new and more extended field of usefulness." A resolution declared it to be highly expedient that a portion of the funds should be applied to the purchase of books exclusively devoted to science and its application to the arts. Lectures on scientific subjects had been delivered and were to be continued.

April 27.—The right of shooting over extensive districts in the county of Sutherland is advertised as to let. The districts are seven in number—Achintoul, Gairnsary, Shiness, Big-house, Armadale, Strathnaver, and Aultnaharrow. The shooting carried with it liberty of angling in rivers and lakes, and the advertisement added that "the right to shoot Red Deer, under certain limitations, will be added to each district."

May 3.—A singular complaint came before the Synod of Ross. The minister of Kinlochluichart stated that on the day appointed by last Assembly for humiliation and fasting, the proprietor of Kilcoy passed by the church of Kinlochluichart attended by a servant and loaded cart. This conduct the minister considered to be aggravated by the fact that the proprietor in question was an office-bearer in the Church of Scotland. The minister sent a complaint to the Presbytery of Chanonry, where the delinquent resided, but that Presbytery had taken no notice of it. Rev. Mr Sage, Resolis, on behalf of the Presbytery, defended their resolution to take no action, but he did not carry the Synod with him. On the contrary, Rev. Mr Carment submitted the following motion, which was unanimously agreed to:—"That the Synod sustain the petition and approve of the zeal of the Session of Kinlochluichart in maintaining the discipline of the Church, and instruct the Session of Knockbain, and, failing them, the Presbytery of Chanonry, to proceed in the business according to the laws of the Church." The editor, in commenting on the case, stated that "the public feeling here is almost universally opposed to the step of the venerable Synod." A letter in the next issue states that, when the incident occurred, the gentleman had been returning from his hill property, where he had been staying for some days, and was not even aware that the day was a fast day.

Ibid.—The directors of the Inverness Academy voted a sum of £15 for the purpose of improving the Museum by a complete British herbarium and a local mineralogical collection. Mr George Anderson was appointed curator. He already possessed a set of specimens illustrative of the geology of a large district, and he hoped, with the help of Mr William Stables, Cawdor Castle; the Rev. Mr Gordon, of Birnie, and other friends, to make a complete set of British flora, all properly named and arranged, and embracing about 2000 specimens.

May 11.—The steamers advertised for the summer sailing on Loch-Ness bore the names of "Helen Macgregor" and "Rob Roy." Captain Turner was in command of the "Helen Macgregor," and Captain Munro of the "Rob Roy."

May 18.—The workmen engaged in repairing Dornoch Cathedral raised up a few days before a handsome stone coffin, which was found buried in the choir. Some of the bones were entire, and covered with fragments of leather, which led to the belief that leather had been used as a winding sheet. The body of the coffin was formed of one entire stone, and its lid of another. On the outside of the latter was cut the figure of a knight and of a lion couchant. The remains were supposed to be those of Richard Murray, brother of Bishop Gilbert Murray, slain at Embo in a battle with the Danes in 1245.

May 23.—A correspondent gives a lamentable account of destitution in the Island of Lewis. The weather there (and elsewhere) had been very bad throughout the spring. Even in April there was hail, frost, and snow, accompanied by cutting gales from the north-east. It was computed that in the Lewis 700 head of stock, including horses, had died, besides several thousand sheep. Scarcely any lambs had survived. "The part which has suffered most is the parish of Barvas, where almost 300 cattle died, exclusive of sheep. The island is reduced to a state of dearth and desolation that is heart-rending to contemplate." A fund was raised in Edinburgh to forward meal and potatoes.

Ibid.—The estate of Lakefield was sold to Miss Fraser, Bruiach, at the upset price of £8000.

June 1.—The death of the Duke of Gordon, prominent in his father's lifetime as the Marquis of Huntly, is announced. Born in February 1770, he was sixty-six years of age.

"The Duke of Gordon was in appearance and deportment the very beau ideal of a British nobleman, and notwithstanding all recent political divisions and bitterness, he continued 'Cock of the North,' and with Whig and Tory was still the most popular peer in Scotland. He was generous, affable, and high spirited. He possessed an inexhaustible fund of gaiety and good humour, and was the life of all festive parties." The Duke was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Brodie of Arnhall, but without issue. Thus the title for a time became extinct. "The Earl of Aboyne (born June 28, 1761), though a very distant relative, succeeds to the ancient title of Marquis of Huntly. The princely residence of Gordon Castle and landed property of the value of £30,000 per annum, go to the Duchess-Dowager of Richmond, his Grace's eldest sister, and on her decease to her descendants, in whose family it is entailed." The Duke died in London, but his remains were conveyed to the North, and interred in Elgin Cathedral.

June 8.—The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland censured one of its ministers because he had attended a public dinner given at Glasgow to Daniel O'Connell.

June 15.—This issue contains a long and interesting report of the funeral of the Duke of Gordon, which took place on Friday, 10th June. The remains were conveyed with great ceremonial from Gordon Castle to Elgin Cathedral. It was computed that at least 8000 persons were present. The account closes with the statement that the Duke had left to his widowed Duchess £80,000 in money on the estate, and £5000 a year for life, with Huntly Lodge as a jointure house.

June 22.—At the Inverness anniversary of the Northern Missionary Society, the collection amounted to £30 16s 4d, and subscriptions to £18 14s 8d—total, £49 11s.

June 29.—It is announced that the principal part of the fortune of the late Sir William Fettes, including the estate of Redcastle, and amounting in all to about £400,000, is to be appropriated to the foundation of an educational establishment to be called the Fettes Institution. A few other bequests, of comparatively small amount, were left in the will.

July 6.—The establishment of a daily mail to Inverness by the Highland road from Perth had long been desired, but was only now granted. The service began on 5th July. An

advertisement informs the public that the mail coach "will leave the George and Star Hotels, Perth, every evening at nine o'clock, and reach Inverness at half-past ten o'clock a.m.; will also leave the Caledonian and Royal Hotels, Inverness, every morning at nine o'clock, and arrive at Perth at half-past ten o'clock p.m., thus performing the journey in 13½ hours." In the case of the South-going mail, half-an-hour was allowed at Dalwhinnie for dinner. In consequence of the change the "Courier" was now published on Wednesday morning instead of Wednesday evening. The mail from Aberdeen remained as before.

July 13.—There is an interesting article on improved travelling in the Highlands. Since the new Post-office arrangement, it is pointed out, a person might dine in Edinburgh one day and breakfast in Inverness the next. The mail coach left Edinburgh at four o'clock in the afternoon, and reached Inverness at half-past ten next morning. This expedition seemed extraordinary. It "would have seemed improbable twenty years ago, and sixty years since would have been pronounced impossible." The writer recalls the experiences of travelling from Edinburgh by post-chaise, which the older townsmen would remember. The first day the party dined at Kinross and supped at Perth; the next day they breakfasted at Inver, near Dunkeld; and so they proceeded by Moulinearn, Blair, Dalwhinnie, &c., "husbanding the poor horses till, on the fifth morning, if the vehicle held good, the party was safely deposited in this town." The reminiscences of more recent times between Perth and Inverness are also amusing. "The Caledonian coach was, we believe, for some years a truly accommodating vehicle. The driver did not hesitate to give his passengers 'a blink of the afternoon' to discuss a bottle of port, or an extra tumbler of whisky punch, or to drive the vehicle a few miles off the road to oblige a lady, or an inquisitive tourist, who might happen to be a bit of an antiquary or a lover of the picturesque. At length, however, the utilitarian principle came into active operation; travelling began here, as elsewhere, to be systematised, as time came to be considered of greater value; and accordingly for the last ten years the Caledonian coach, twice a week in winter and thrice in summer, wound its way by rock and stream, through the defiles of Badenoch and the Grampians, and on 'by the Tummel and Garry,' with the usual

plodding regularity and expedition of a long or heavy coach in any other part of the kingdom. During the summer and autumn months it was crowded with tourists and their baggage, a motley catalogue of guns, fishing rods, pointers, creels, and baskets. This useful vehicle, which in its day had the honour of introducing among our mountains some very distinguished individuals, including Southey, Sir Humphry Davy, and many other names eminent in literature and science, was withdrawn last week to make room for a daily mail coach, spick and span new, with new guards in new liveries, and horses that find no difficulty, even at the ugly pass of Slochmuich, in clearing nine miles an hour. For this we have to thank Lord Lichfield and the General Post-office."

July 20.—A paragraph records the unexpected death of the Rev. Donald Fraser, of Kirkhill, which occurred on the 12th inst. On the morning of that day Mr Fraser attended a funeral at Kiltarlity, and was returning home in a gig driven by a boy, when the horse stumbled, and he was thrown from his seat. Mr Fraser did not seem to be seriously hurt, but he grew worse during the afternoon, and expired the same evening at eleven o'clock. He had burst a blood vessel. "The deceased was a highly popular clergyman, of great talent, learning, and eloquence, and of accomplished manners. There was scarcely a pulpit within the wide circle of the Northern Counties in which his virtues were not eulogised last Sunday, in language which came from the heart, and awakened kindred emotions on the part of the congregation." The deceased was in the 54th year of his age, and succeeded his father as minister of the parish of Kirkhill in 1802.

Ibid.—The Sheep and Wool Market took place the previous week. "Thursday and Friday were the appointed days, but it was Saturday before the principal lots changed owners, or any idea of the prices likely to prevail could be obtained." The market was thus settling into the position which still exists, except that Thursday has long been a mere nominal day. The market of 1836 was good both for sheep and wool. On Cheviot wethers there was an advance over the previous year of from 15 to 20 per cent., and on lambs of from 1s to 2s per head. On ewes, Cheviot and black-faced, there was a slight fall. On the best clips of Cheviot wool there was a rise of from

4s to 5s per stone. Prices are quoted as follows:—Cheviot widders, 24s to 31s 6d; ewes, 16s to 19s; lambs, 9s to 14s; blackfaced widders, 15s to 21s; ewes, 9s to 12s; lambs, 8s 6d to 11s. Wool—laid blackfaced, 10s to 22s per stone of 24 lbs.; unlaed, 12s 6d to 14s. Unwashed cross-bred, 12s 6d to 14s; washed, 14s to 16s. Unwashed Cheviot, 17s to 18s; washed, 21s to 25s. The inns, we are told, were crowded before all former example. Public ordinaries were held in the Caledonian and Royal Hotels, and there was a talk of combining them in the Northern Meeting Rooms. It was also suggested that there should be a register of buyers and sellers, that they might be able more easily to pick one another up.

July 27.—It is announced that Mr Edward Ellice, junior, had withdrawn from the position of prospective candidate for the Inverness Burghs, as it was his object to stand for the Fife Burghs, and with every prospect of success. Mr Roderick Macleod of Cadboll, then member for Sutherland, "a long-trying and consistent friend of Liberal principles," offered himself as a candidate for the Inverness Burghs.

August 10.—A young man, a sailor, was found stabbed on the river bank, above the Stone Bridge, and died of his wounds. Inquiries led to the arrest of a youth named Mackintosh, nicknamed Sheely, who is described as a prowler. There had been a scuffle in the Haugh, in which soldiers and sailors were concerned, and Mackintosh was accused of having used a clasp-knife.

August 17.—A petition was presented in the House of Commons by Sir George Sinclair for the institution of a Gaelic Professorship in one, at least, of the Scottish Universities. It was signed by 500 persons resident in London and its suburbs. Many years, however, were to pass before a Celtic chair was founded, not by Government, but through the efforts of Professor Blackie.

August 31.—Major Cumming Bruce of Dunphail announces that he intends at next election to withdraw from the representation of the Inverness Burghs. The candidate in the Conservative interest was to be Mr Randall Mackenzie, yr. of Scatwell, who had attained his majority a year before. At the election of January 1835 the contest was very close, Conservatives polling 344 and Liberals 340. The "Courier" urges that at the next contest both

parties should endeavour to lessen the expenses. "The former struggle," it is said, "cost Major Cumming Bruce and Mr Ellice about £1500 each—a sum which seems far too high considering the number of the constituency. We know it is argued that the money so spent circulates among the community and benefits part of them; but we question whether any working man was ever made rich by such profusion, which strikes at the purity of election, and has a strong tendency to induce idleness and immorality."

Ibid.—Two public dinners are reported at length. One was given at Inverness to Mr Charles Macdougall, advocate, who had been appointed to a post in British Guiana. The other was given at Elgin to Sir Andrew Leith Hay, M.P. for the Elgin District of Burghs.

September 7.—"Died lately at Braemoray, John Ross, aged fifty, a tenant on Lord Moray's property in the district, known as 'Big John.' He was the tallest and stoutest man in all that country, being 6 feet 8 inches in height, and proportionately well built and powerful."

Ibid.—At the County Registration Court, Sheriff Tytler was called upon to decide the question whether electors in Grantown should vote in the county of Inverness. The Liberal party objected to these votes on the ground that the district was insulated from the main body of the county, and ought to form part of the combined counties of Nairn and Moray for the purposes of the Reform Act. The decision depended mainly on the question whether a farm called Laggan was in the county of Inverness or the county of Moray. After a long hearing Sheriff Tytler held that the alleged disjunction of the Grantown district from the bulk of Inverness-shire had not been sufficiently established.

September 21.—The price of the "Courier," like the price of other newspapers, had been until now sevenpence per copy. With the reduction of the stamp duty it was now reduced to 4½d. In a note the editor says—"The stamp duty was formerly 4d, with twenty per cent. discount; it is now a penny without discount; and if our readers will take the trouble of calculating the difference, comparing the above with our former scale of charges, they will find that, besides the abatement of duty, they have an advantage of better than six per cent. The London weekly papers, and those of Liverpool, have fixed their price at fivepence.

In Scotland, however, fourpence-halfpenny is the almost universal charge, and we cheerfully go along with our brethren in this reduced price, trusting and confidently anticipating that by increased sales and diminished risk and expenditure, we shall ultimately find ourselves remunerated for the immediate loss." The size of the paper consisted, as before, of four pages, six columns to the page, by-and-bye a little widened and lengthened. Apparently fears had been expressed that the reduction of newspapers to the price of 4½d would endanger their tone and character! The editor gravely says—"We do not think there is any inclination among the great body of the people for depraved sources of intelligence or objects of excitement. They are desirous, as we hope they will ever be, to possess information on all public questions, but the national mind, like the national commerce, is in a sound and healthy state. We do not fear any influx of worthless publications to injure the morals of the people."

Ibid.—The remains of the youngest daughter of the late Glengarry were interred on the previous Friday in the family burying-ground at Invergarry, on the banks of Loch-Oich. The young chief was the principal mourner, dressed in Highland costume, and other relatives and friends were present. The coffin was brought by steamer from Glasgow to one of the locks near the burying-ground. "The effect of the scene, after the coffin was taken from the vessel, and conveyed by the clansmen, amidst the wild music and the wilder hills and glens of the country, was highly impressive, especially to the English ladies and gentlemen, passengers in the vessel, who for the first time witnessed a solemnity of the kind in the Highlands."

September 28.—There is a long report of the trial of the young man Mackintosh, charged with having murdered a sailor by stabbing him. He was found guilty, with a recommendation to mercy, on account of his youth (twenty-one). Sentence of death was passed, but was afterwards commuted to transportation for life.

Ibid.—"We are glad to learn that the pontage charged to foot-passengers, strangers, passing the bridges of the town, is to be done away with in future. A resolution to this effect was passed at the Town Council yesterday."

Ibid.—On Friday, the 9th inst., the Marquis of

Huntly (until the death of the Duke of Gordon, Earl of Aboyne) paid a visit to the Glen-garry property which he had recently purchased. The tenantry presented him with an address. There was a dinner at Invergarry Inn.

October 5.—Public dinners to Mr George Traill and Sir George Sinclair, M.P., were given at Thurso, and are reported. There was also a political meeting at Inverness to hear an address from Mr Macleod of Cadboll, M.P.

Ibid.—At a meeting at Forres it was agreed to form a company to introduce gas into the town. The old gaol at Forres, "which was long ago condemned as unsafe," had just been taken down to make room for a new structure.

October 12.—A fatal accident occurred on Ben-Nevis. Three young men had climbed the mountain and were coming down. One of them, Samuel Macdonell, Fort-William, who had been frequently on the Ben, began to slide along certain parts of the slope. The grass, however, was slippery, and the young man, gathering momentum, lost the power of stopping, and his foot striking a stone, he was thrown headlong into a ravine and killed. The accident and its accompaniments—such as the search for the body by torchlight—make an impressive story.

October 19.—The county of Ross solicited the Government to turn part of Fort-George into a penitentiary for the use of the Northern Counties. "In the present state of the prisons of the North of Scotland," the report ran, "confinement within them is productive not of good but of unmixed evil to the community; while the public is also subjected to a very heavy expense, which would be greatly diminished by the conversion of such part of Fort-George into a Penitentiary as would make the change a gainful one even in a pecuniary sense, although that benefit be of much less importance than the moral good which would result from it." The same meeting resolved to renew an application for placing a mail curriole on the road from Dingwall to Lochcarron.

October 26.—The steamer "Duchess of Sutherland," placed on the route between London and Inverness, was to discontinue plying after 14th November until February. "How far its voyages have hitherto remunerated the proprietors we cannot say, but the public have

been great gainers by the speculation." It is observed that passengers could now take a trip from the Thames to Inverness with as much ease as they could formerly sail to Margate.

November 2.—There is a long report of a public dinner given to Lord Glenelg in the Northern Meeting Rooms. Mr Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch was in the chair. The company numbered about 250, and included many county gentlemen. Lord Glenelg delivered an eloquent and powerful speech in defence of the policy of the Reform Government.

November 2 and 9.—There was keen excitement at the Inverness municipal election this year. Of eight members elected to the Council six were Conservatives. Provost Fraser was defeated in the First Ward. One of the representatives in the Second Ward, however, declined to accept office, and Provost Fraser was elected without opposition. In the meantime it occurred to some persons that the Provost had no occasion to retire from the Council in the first instance, as by statute he was empowered to serve for not less than three years, and he had been re-elected to the chair only the year before. The dispute lasted for several weeks. In the end Mr John Ferguson was elected Provost, and Mr Fraser retired from the Council. The heat involved in course of the controversy almost led to blows.

November 9.—Dr John Smith was elected Provost of Nairn, Dr Tulloch Provost of Fortrose, and Mr William Dickson Provost of Forres.

November 16.—A great Conservative demonstration in Ross-shire is reported in this issue to the extent of nine and a-half columns—a large proportion of a four-page newspaper. The gathering took the form of a dinner which was held at Invergordon, in a flax factory at one end of the village. The attendance numbered 247 persons. Mr Duncan Davidson of Tulloch was in the chair, and the croupiers were Colonel Munro of Teaninich and Mr John Hay Mackenzie of Cromartie. Mr Wilson, of the Caledonian Hotel, Inverness, purveyed an entertainment which must have taxed his resources, but for which he received great credit. A ship-load of provisions was brought from Inverness. "When the tables were laid out, the people were admitted to take a view of the place; and when the whole was over the different soups that remained were again warmed and distributed, with bread, among hundreds

of poor persons. The dinner embraced every variety and delicacy, including a plentiful supply of game from hill and moor." The great topic of the speaking was the defence of Church and State.

November 23.—The Rev. David Campbell, late of Glenlyon, was inducted as pastor of the East Church. Mr Robert Ross was elected Provost of Cromarty. Mr Hugh Innes Cameron was re-elected Provost of Dingwall. The latter was also entertained to a public dinner.

December 7.—A meeting of Commissioners of Supply was held at Tain to discuss the state of the Ross-shire jails. The great grievance was that civil debtors and Excise prisoners were carried past the Dingwall prison and lodged in the prison at Tain, which was quite unfit for their accommodation. Scottish prisons generally were still utterly inadequate either for security or classification.

December 28.—A short account is given of a series of scientific lectures which had been delivered in the Academy Hall by a qualified lecturer, Mr Keir. The course embraced optics and geology, and also phrenology, which was at that time engaging attention. There were four lectures on geology, with illustrations.

No. XIII.

The year 1837 was notable for the death of King William IV. and the accession of Queen Victoria. Political feeling at the time ran high. A bye-election was caused in Ross-shire by the appointment of Seaforth as Governor of Ceylon, and in the contest which followed, the Conservative candidate, Mr Mackenzie of Applecross, won the seat by a large majority. At the General Election which ensued on the accession of the new Sovereign, Applecross retained the seat without a contest, and The Chisholm again defeated Mr Grant of Glenmoriston in the County of Inverness. In the Burghs, Mr Macleod of Cadboll secured the representation for the Whigs, but not by a large majority. It is curious to find that Forres was then the most Conservative burgh of the group. This year there was great distress in the Western Highlands and Islands, and subscriptions for their relief were raised throughout the country. In the Inverness Town Council parties were very closely divided, and the angry spirit which had recently been exhibited found fresh illustration.

From the "Inverness Courier."

1837.

January 4.—The death is recorded of Captain Alexander Clark, for years master of the smack *Fame*, trading between London and the Northern ports. Captain Clark had an adventurous career. He was born at Covesea, in Morayshire, in 1760, and at the age of twelve was pressed into the naval service. He served on board the *Fortitude* line-of-battle-ship under Admiral Parker, and was present at several engagements (among others with the Dutch in 1781 off the Dogger Bank), and subsequently in the American war. On returning to Scotland he became master of a "free trade" lugger, but ultimately gave it up for more regular service. As master of the smack *Fame*, he enjoyed great respect and confidence. An anecdote illustrates his brave

character. "While sailing between London and Inverness, off the coast of Aberdeen, a large French privateer hove in sight, and immediately gave chase, which he no sooner observed than he forthwith prepared for action, ordering his men to the guns, and a party of soldiers, who were fortunately on board, to arms. The Frenchman, on perceiving that there was every appearance of his receiving a warm reception, sheered off, to the great mortification both of soldiers and seamen. The cool and resolute conduct he displayed on this occasion was taken honourable notice of at Lloyd's office, where an account of the matter was posted." Captain Clark died at Cromarty.

Ibid.—"On the 11th November, at Strone-Nevis, near Fort-William, Evan Macmillan, aged one hundred years. This veteran, the oldest pensioner in Great Britain, entered the army in 1758, and was severely wounded at the battle of Quebec under General Wolfe, in consequence of which he became an out-pensioner of Chelsea Hospital, and continued so for the period of seventy-five years. He retained all his faculties, except his eyesight, to the last. He used to give a distinct account of the siege of Fort-William, by the army of Prince Charles in 1745, and of other events of that interesting period, which he had witnessed."

Ibid.—Influenza was raging at this time in the North of Scotland. It is stated that in Aberdeen and Banff business was almost suspended for a time. In a subsequent issue it is stated that the epidemic had reached Inverness, and was very severe.

January 18.—An old woman named Isobel Noble, better known as Ishbel Mhor, or Big Isobel, died at the Maggot, Inverness, on the 11th inst. She was born the year after the battle of Culloden, near the fatal field. She was a bit of a character, and her portrait was painted by a local artist, Mr Macinnes, Chapel Street. Isobel was tall, one eyed, and remarkably "plain."

Ibid.—The North Church, Inverness, was opened on the previous Sabbath, when the Rev. Mr Cook preached. It is stated that the church had only been commenced about six months previously, and was now nearly finished, and about three-fourths of the sittings taken. The Rev. Archibald Cook, then at Reay, was soon afterwards called as minister.

Ibid.—"Died, at Inverness, on the 11th inst.,

aged 62, Mr Walter Munro, Baptist minister, long known in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland as a faithful and laborious preacher of the Gospel."

January 25.—"The increased communication between Inverness and the other Northern Counties is strikingly illustrated by the fact that the Ferry at Kessock, near this town, which about twenty-five years ago used to be let for £150 per annum, now draws in a rent of £800 a year."

February 1.—A meeting was held in Edinburgh to take into consideration the destitute condition of a large part of the Western Highlands and Islands. The crop of 1835 had been bad, and the crop of 1836 still worse, causing great distress. It was stated that one proprietor had provided supplies to the amount of £1500. Reports of the condition of affairs were given from Skye, Lochbroom, the Long Island, &c. The meeting resolved to appeal for subscriptions in England as well as Scotland.

Ibid.—The "Gazette" of January 24th announced the elevation of Thomas Alexander Fraser of Lovat to the peerage, "by the name, style, and title of Baron Lovat of Lovat, in the county of Inverness." On his lordship's return to the North a few weeks later, the event was celebrated with great rejoicings.

Ibid.—On the 26th of January the Rev. Alexander Fraser, of Cawdor, was inducted as minister of Kirkhill, in succession to his father, the late Donald Fraser.

February 15.—In a recent boat accident in the neighbourhood of Dunvegan, in Skye, thirteen lives were lost. "A meeting had been called by the minister to receive information on the destitute state of his poor parishioners, so widely scattered over that rugged country. After it had concluded a party, consisting of fifteen persons, left in a boat. In endeavouring to pass a rock near the shore the boat struck; several tried to heave it off the rock, but the boat capsized, and thirteen persons, twelve men and a woman, were drowned. The remaining two escaped, one by clinging to an oar, and the other, a female, by getting on a rock, whence she was removed after the storm had subsided."

February 22.—There is an account of the financial returns of the steamer *Duchess* of Sutherland, plying between the Moray Firth and London. The first season yielded a profit of only £195

15s 4½d, and this was regarded as rather discouraging. The vessel had been kept on too long, namely, from March to November, and it was intended to shorten the season, though beginning this year in March. The export of live stock had proved profitable to agriculturists, but was not sufficient in amount to be satisfactory to the company running the steamer. The freight was accordingly to be advanced.

Ibid.—A violent gale from the south-west visited the district the previous Saturday. "In the County Buildings here no less than twenty-one panes of glass were blown in, while it was dangerous to walk the streets, in consequence of the fall of slates, chimney-tops, &c., from the roofs of the houses. In the county many thatched cottages were completely unroofed, and fences, haystacks, and outbuildings thrown down."

Ibid.—Operations had been resumed at the lead mines of Strontian. From two to three hundred persons were employed.

March 1.—A deplorable account is given of the state of destitution prevailing among the people of Skye. "The unfavourable weather destroyed their peats, and they have neither money nor opportunities to purchase coals or wood. In this extremity the poor people have lately in some places been driven to consume their turf huts and cottages for fire. They meet and draw lots whose house is to be taken down for fuel, and afterwards in the same manner determine which of their number is to maintain the poor family deprived of their home. Almost shut up by the stormy elements, crowding round their miserable fire thus scantily and painfully supplied—and with only, at long intervals, a handful of oatmeal or potatoes—we know not that the history of the British people ever presented such pictures of severe unmitigated want and misery as are exemplified at this movement in the case of the poor Highlanders."

March 8.—The shootings of Auchnasheen, Cabuie, and Dochsmurckan, with the right of fishing on Loch-Rosque and Loch-Fannich, are advertised to let on lease. "The moors," it is stated, "are well stocked with grouse, ptarmigan, and blackcock, and red deer may be found at all times within the bounds, which extend to upwards of 16,000 acres, or twenty-five square miles."

Ibid.—The Town Council, by a majority of 11 to 7 votes, adopted a report on the subject of Dr Andrew Bell's endowment for education. They resolved to erect one principal school for the education of all classes, and several local schools for the education of the poor. The minority were in favour of some arrangement with the Academy.

March 22.—A public meeting was held in Inverness, under the auspices of the Town Council, to assist in raising funds for the relief of distress in the Western Highlands and Islands. Provost Ferguson was in the chair, and liberal subscriptions were announced. A committee in Aberdeen had also arranged for a supply of meal and oats. The movement became general.

April 5.—The appointment is announced of Mr J. A. Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth to be Governor of Ceylon. This created a vacancy in the Parliamentary representation of the county of Ross, and two candidates were already in the field. Mr William Mackenzie of Muirton came forward in the Whig interest, and Mr Thomas Mackenzie of Applecross came forward on behalf of the Conservatives.

Ibid.—The new Catholic Chapel in Huntly Street was opened on the previous Sunday by Bishop Kyle, assisted by the Rev. Messrs Rankin, of Badenoch, and Thomas Chisholm, of Strathglass. Among the congregation on the opening day were the two Sobieski Stuarts. The architect of the church was Mr Robertson, Elgin.

April 12.—The nomination of candidates for the representation of the county of Ross took place on the previous day. Mr Hay Mackenzie of Cromartie nominated Mr Mackenzie of Applecross, and Mr Horatio Ross of Rossie seconded the motion. The nomination of Mr Mackenzie of Muirton was made by Seaforth and seconded by Cadboll. The report of the speeches on the occasion extends to 5½ newspaper columns. Mr Gladstone, "an extensive West Indian merchant," was present, and being appealed to made some remarks in criticism of the policy of the Whig Government. The Conservative candidate said he looked on the contest "not as between Conservatives and self-styled Liberals, but as a fierce struggle between Protestantism and its hydra-headed enemies." His opponent replied that "he was opposed to Popery because he thought

it an enemy to civil liberty; but he wished to see it overcome by mild means—by the spread of education—and he thought, with Dr Chalmers, that Protestantism was best supported not by coercion but by spiritual weapons."

Ibid.—"We understand the extensive and beautiful Highland estate of Glenelg has just passed into the hands of a new proprietor. Lord Glenelg has disposed of it to James Evan Baillie, Esq., formerly one of the representatives for Bristol, and at present a banker and merchant in that city. Mr Baillie purchased another Highland property in Badenoch from the late Duke of Gordon. The estate of Glenelg is said to have been sold for £77,000."

April 19.—The contest in Ross-shire resulted in favour of the Conservative candidate. The poll stood—For Mr Mackenzie of Applecross, 307; for Mr Mackenzie of Muirton, 196; majority for Applecross, 111. At the previous election Seaforth, as the Whig candidate, had a majority of 40. In the same issue there is a report of a public dinner given to Seaforth at Dingwall on his appointment as Governor of Ceylon.

Ibid.—A number of subscribers had made arrangements with the Magistrates and Town Council to form a reading-room on the ground floor of the Town Hall. Certain improvements were to be made on the building, and until these were completed the subscribers were allowed the use of the Northern Meeting Rooms.

April 26.—Echoes of the Ross-shire election appear in this number. The chief factor in winning the seat appears to have been the Protestant feeling aroused by the clergy.

Ibid.—There is a summary of the annual report of the Parliamentary Commissioners for Highland Roads and Bridges. One of the subjects was the recent establishment of the mail coach on the Highland road. "The adoption of this arrangement, by which twenty hours in the course of the Northern post are saved, has been principally owing to the recent improvements at the Pass of Slochmuich, which has heretofore presented the most serious obstacle on the line. The obstruction experienced by the mail from snow in the past winter has been immaterial, compared with that sustained in the far more populous Southern and West-

ern districts of Great Britain, and was, in fact, little beyond what, it may be anticipated, will be removed by the experience of two or three seasons. The Commissioners appear to feel encouraged by this result, as productive of a most important benefit to the country, and confirmatory of the correctness of the views with which a survey of the highland line and the adjacent district was directed." This survey was carried out by Mr Joseph Mitchell. In course of the year a stone bridge of three arches over the river Oich at Aberchaldar had been completed.

Ibid.—A steeplechase, sweepstakes five sovereigns each, was organised by officers at Fort-George. The course was a circuit of three miles in the neighbourhood of Inverness, the horses starting and finishing in the same field. "It included upwards of twenty leaps, five roads, three brooks, eight fallow fields, and a beautiful run-in over grass laid for the last quarter of a mile." The race was won in little more than ten minutes. The winner was Captain Towne's Tramp, which "was jockeyed in splendid style by Captain Duberly, and did not make a single mistake throughout the race." During the season there had been a good deal of coursing.

May 3.—It is stated that the Duchess-Countess of Sutherland is providing relief and assistance for 3000 persons on her estate.

Ibid.—Mr John Edwards, Sheriff-Substitute, had recently been appointed Receiver-General of Jamaica. Before his departure a handsome silver epergne was presented to him as a mark of respect. It bore the following inscription:—"Presented by landowners and inhabitants of the county and royal burgh of Inverness, to John Edwards, Esquire, Principal Sheriff-Substitute of Inverness-shire, in testimony of their approbation of his conduct and character as a Judge, their respect for his talents, their esteem for his private virtues.—29th April 1837." The plate was accompanied by an address, and the presentation was made by Mackintosh of Mackintosh. At the April county meeting a resolution was also passed bearing testimony to the "zeal, ability, integrity, and great legal knowledge," which Mr Edwards had displayed in his administration of the civil and criminal business of the county.

Ibid.—A small clay image was discovered on the margin of a stream near Inverness. "In the forehead is placed a needle, run far into the head; and several pins and needles garnish the lower parts of the figure. The body and arms are fastened to the head by means of red silk threads, disposed in equal numbers on each side." This was a vindictive form of superstition, of which examples have been found at a much more recent date.

May 10.—The Synod of Ross and the Synod of Moray both petitioned against the bill for the abolition of Church rates in England.

Ibid.—There is a notice of a "remarkable pamphlet" by Mr Rowland Hill, advocating the establishment of a penny post. The facts and figures are carefully noted and discussed.

May 17.—By the death of a Magistrate, Bailie Stalker, a vacancy had been created in the Town Council. The membership of the Council was thus equally divided between Tories and Whigs, ten on each side. The election of a Councillor ad interim revived a slumbering feud. The Conservatives put forward as their candidate Mr David Rose, the Whigs Mr Kenneth Douglas. The Conservatives, however, it was evident, would have the casting vote of the Provost, and accordingly the ten Reform candidates absented themselves from the meeting. The other ten, however, met and declared Mr Rose elected. A lawyer was present and entered a protest.

Ibid.—A letter is published, written by Alexander Gray, a drover in Sutherland in 1739, describing an attempt to take cattle from him near Inverness. He was on his way to Crieff fair with "a great drove." A body of men at Lochashie endeavoured to secure a share, offering even to take "half-a-dozen or thereby," and disturb him no more. The attempt was made in the darkness of the night. Gray and his assistants, however, refused, and waiting till morning they sent an express to Inverness to borrow arms from gentlemen of their acquaintance. "Upon our obligation to return the arms or pay their value, got a fine cause of hulsters, mounted with brass, a single hulster, likewise mounted with brass, and a side piestoll, mounted with silver, which our drovers carried in as privat a manner as possible, meaning nothing but our own defence

from the frequent attacks of those thieves who (as it appears to us) are the only people allowed by the military to carry arms. This precaution had the desired effect, and we proceeded with our cattle. On our return home our drivers who carried pistols were seized by Colin Campbell, serjeant in Captain Campbell's Carrigys Company, lodged at Riven in Badenoch, and took away the pistols and threatened to put themselves in prison." This, it will be observed, was seven years before the battle of Culloden.

June 7.—The two preceding files are absent. It is announced on this date that a new coach, "The Highlander," was to run from Invergordon to Tain. A conveyance had also begun to run to Strathpeffer. Coach travelling, we are told, had lately made rapid strides in the Highlands. A mail curriole had been running through the Great Glen since October.

June 14.—The editor begins a series of interesting "Notes on the Road." The first describes the county from Inverness to Dingwall, including Brahan Castle. The same issue contains the report of a dinner given at Stirling to Mr W. H. Colquhoun, who was Sheriff-Substitute for the Western District of Perthshire, and had just been appointed principal Sheriff-Substitute of Inverness-shire.

June 21.—An interdict had been obtained from Lord Cunningham against further proceedings by the Inverness Town Council until the vacancy recently created by one of the Bailies was filled up and completed in terms of law. "The labours of our local representatives are thus put to a stand for the present. We presume the Bill of Suspension and Interdict will be disposed of before the rising of the Court next month; if not, the business of the Council may have to lie over until the annual election in November."

Ibid.—The following paragraph is quoted from an Aberdeen newspaper:—"In the year 1787 the estate of Glengarry produced £800 a year; the present rental is upwards of £7000. In 1799 the estate of Castlehill, in Inverness-shire, was sold under the authority of the Court of Session for £8000; in 1804 it produced £80,000. In 1781 Glenelg, in Inverness-shire, produced an income of £600 a year; in 1798 it was sold for £30,000; in 1811 Lord

Glenelg gave £100,000 for it, and his lordship lately sold it for £77,000. In 1777 Fairburn yielded £700 a year; in 1824 it sold for £80,000. In 1790 Redcastle sold for £25,000; in 1824 it sold for the large sum of £135,000. The rental of the estate of The Chisholm was £700 in 1783, and at present exceeds £5000 per annum. In 1791 the rental of the Orkney Islands was £19,000; now they produce £70,000; and in 1760 the rental of Argyllshire was under £20,000, now £192,000." There is a mistake in the above paragraph. In our notes for 1824 it is stated that the Right Hon. Charles Grant (afterwards Lord Glenelg) bought the estate of Glenelg in that year for £82,000; but it is added that a few years previously the same estate fetched nearly £100,000.

Ibid.—The ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the inner basin of the new harbour at Stotfield Point, Lossiemouth, took place on the 15th inst. The stone was laid by Lieut.-Colonel James Brander of Pitgaveny, the proprietor of the site, with the assistance of the Trinity Lodge of Freemasons, and in presence of the Chairman and shareholders of the Harbour Company, and representatives of the burgh of Elgin.

June 28.—King William IV. died on the 20th inst., and was succeeded by Queen Victoria. The young Queen's declaration on assuming the throne is described as "one of the most affecting and admirable State documents ever penned." The proclamation of the new Sovereign was made at the Market Cross of Inverness by Sheriff Colquhoun in presence of the Magistrates and a large gathering of townspeople. The Duke of Cumberland became King of Hanover.

Ibid.—"The fine estate of Geanies, in Easter Ross, has been purchased by Mr Murray, banker, Tain, for the sum of £59,000."

Ibid.—There is a description of the monument on Ben-Bhraggie to the memory of the first Duke of Sutherland, which was then in course of erection. It was subscribed for by the tenantry, by whom the Duke was respected in no ordinary degree. The site is almost fourteen hundred feet above sea-level. The pedestal, seventy-six feet in height, was built from a design by Mr Burn. The stone was

excavated from a quarry of hard red sandstone found on the spot. "To crown this magnificent pedestal a statue of equally gigantic proportions is in progress. A model of the figure was moulded by Chantrey, which contains an admirable likeness of the late Duke, in an erect attitude, as if standing to speak, arrayed in the toga or gown. This statue will be thirty feet in height, making with the pedestal an elevation of a hundred and six feet, and forming a conspicuous landmark far and near, by sea and land, on both sides of the Moray Firth. The stone of which the statue will be composed is found at Brora; it is of drab colour, which gradually whitens on exposure. The execution of this work has been entrusted by Sir Francis Chantrey to the skilful and practised hand of Mr Theakstone, who also constructed the monument to the Duke of Sutherland at Trentham, in Staffordshire. . . . Although the model of Chantrey is only four feet in height, and the statue will be thirty, every line and feature can be preserved by the most exact admeasurement, and by mechanical processes which impose a check on each and secure certainty to the whole." The same issue contains an account of the improvements effected on Dornoch Cathedral by the Duchess of Sutherland, from designs by Chantrey and Burn.

Ibid.—"A person ploughing in a field near Clashmore, county of Sutherland, on the 12th inst., turned up a wedge or bar of gold, about a quarter of an inch in thickness, three inches long, and an inch and a-half in breadth. There is no engraving on the piece, but something like a stamp appears on one side."

July 5.—Lord Cunningham recalled the interdict granted in the case of the Inverness Town Council. His opinion on the merits was in favour of the validity of Mr Rose's nomination.

Ibid.—Mr Innes of Sandside has laid out considerable sums in constructing a harbour at his place, under the direction of Mr Bremner, engineer.

July 12.—"The salmon fishing has lately proved very productive in some of our Northern streams. In the river Beaully above a thousand salmon and grilse were taken in one night."

July 19.—At the Inverness Wool Market, held the previous week, the trade in wool was paralysed by a recent revulsion in the commercial world. Sheep, fortunately, were in more demand than the fleece. They were disposed of to the value of £50,000 or £60,000 at fair prices. "The most valuable lot of Cheviot sheep in the North, or perhaps in Scotland, was sold by Mr Houston, Kintradwell, to Mr Andrew Lamb, Liverpool, at £1 8s each for widders, and 18s for ewes. The former is the highest by 1s obtained at the market; last year the same stock of widders were sold for £1 11s 6d." The run of prices was stated as follows:—Cheviot widders, 19s to £1 8s; cross widders, 18s to £1 4s; blackfaced widders, 13s to 16s; Cheviot ewes, 14s to 19s; cross ewes, 12s to 16s 6d; blackfaced ewes, 8s to 12s; Cheviot wedder lambs, 10s to 13s; cross wedder lambs, 9s to 11s; blackfaced wedder lambs, 8s to 9s 6d. The attendance of buyers from the South was scarcely so large as the previous year, but the public ordinaries were crowded. "The paucity of business was an inducement to prolong the festivities, and on Friday The Chisholm presented the company [at the Caledonian Hotel] with five dozen of claret." There was discussion of a question which had been started the previous year, as to whether there should be an annual dinner in the Northern Meeting Rooms to accommodate the visitors at the two chief hotels, the Caledonian and Royal. A deputation came from the latter to the festive party in the Caledonian to recommend the proposal, but the gathering there was in no mood to consent. "To put an end to the confusion—for the room was very crowded and considerable excitement prevailed—The Chisholm proposed 'Good Evening,' and the party broke up. It was remarked that the deputation was not bowed out, but drunk out!" Another proposal which had been mooted to draw up a register for the market was found to be impracticable.

July 26.—Parliament was prorogued on the 17th inst., and dissolved the same evening. The Inverness Burghs were greatly excited over the contest between the Whig candidate, Mr Macleod of Cadboll, and his Conservative op-

ponent, Mr Mackenzie, yr. of Scatwell. "The Magistrates have this evening sworn in constables to patrol the streets during the night, but we trust there will be no occasion for their interference. . . . There are, unfortunately, several poor electors who, either from imbecility or intemperance, are unable to take care of themselves at such a time as the present; and as they generally vote with the party who have them last in their possession before the poll, they occasion a constant struggle between the rival partisans. Let our respectable townsmen exert themselves to preserve order, and secure to all freedom of thought and action." It is announced that no opposition was to be made to the re-election of Mr Mackenzie of Applecross for the county of Ross. Sir Andrew Leith Hay was re-elected without opposition member for the Elgin Burghs.

July 27.—A second edition of this date reports the nominations for the Inverness Burghs. Mr Fraser of Abertarff nominated Mr Macleod of Cadboll, and Colonel John G. Ross of Strathgarve seconded. Provost Ferguson proposed Mr Mackenzie, yr. of Scatwell, and Dr Munro seconded. There was warm controversy about the Protestant constitution of the country.

August 2.—The result of the contest in the burghs is recorded. The totals were—Macleod, 336; Mackenzie, 314; majority for Cadboll, 19. It may be interesting to give the figures in the various burghs—Inverness, 221 for Macleod, 192 for Mackenzie. Forres, 55 for Macleod, 75 for Mackenzie. Nairn, 36 for Macleod, 25 for Mackenzie. Fortrose, 24 for Macleod, 25 for Mackenzie. Each side put forth its utmost efforts. "From an apprehension that attempts would be made, or continued, to carry off electors, the friends of Mr Macleod had men stationed during the previous night at the different entrances to the town. . . . It was understood that several electors were on board the *Duchess of Sutherland* steamer, in her passage from London; and as the vessel was expected to arrive during the afternoon, many an eye was turned towards the Moray Firth. About three o'clock two gentlemen arrived in a post-chaise, having left the '*Duchess*' at Burghead, whence a

vehicle was in waiting to convey them to Inverness; they both polled for Mr Mackenzie. Two supporters of Mr Macleod, who were on board, had previously gone ashore at Banff, but could obtain no vehicle to convey them forward." A protest was read against the return of Cadboll.

Ibid.—The Hon. William Howard was returned without opposition as member for the county of Sutherland. Mr Horatio Ross of Rossie was mentioned as a candidate for the city of Aberdeen, but he was abroad at the time, and his party retired from the contest. Mr Bannerman was returned unopposed.

August 9.—The contest for the county occupies a large part of this issue. Mr Fraser of Newton proposed The Chisholm, and Captain Shaw, Culblair, seconded. Mackintosh of Mackintosh proposed Glenmoriston, and Mr Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch seconded. The result of the poll was—Chisholm, 303; Glenmoriston, 249; majority for Chisholm, 54. This was exactly double the majority which Chisholm had obtained at the previous election. There were recriminations between the two parties as to undue influence. Chisholm declared that one of his voters had been carried away—"I do not know where, but he did not come to the poll."

Ibid.—In the united counties of Elgin and Nairn the Hon. Colonel Grant of Grant was returned unopposed. In Caithness Sir George Sinclair defeated Mr George Traill. In the Northern Burghs Mr James Loch was elected without opposition.

August 16.—A committee which had been formed for the erection of a monument to the late Duke of Gordon had met with liberal support. The Earl of Moray offered a site on the Ladyhill at Elgin, which was gratefully accepted.

August 23.—A case under the Veto Act came before the Presbytery of Tain. A considerable majority of the communicants objected to the settlement of the Rev. Daniel Macbride, who had been presented to the pastorate of the parish of Logie-Easter. The Presbytery were now investigating the case. In the same issue there is an interesting series of notes by a visitor to the Island of Lewis. The writer was probably the late Mr Joseph Mitchell,

C.E. He states that the "cutty stool" still flourished in some parts of the island in all its primeval glory.

Ibid.—At the anniversary meeting of the Northern Missionary Society at Dingwall, the collection at the gate amounted to £16 17s 6d, and subscriptions and donations to £33 18s 6d. "The meeting recorded their cordial concurrence in the expressions of deep interest minuted by the last meeting at Inverness in the future success of the Rev. John Macdonald, now about to proceed to British India as a missionary under the direction of the General Assembly."

August 30.—There is a report of a public dinner given at Forres to Mr Macleod, M.P. Mr James Bell, surgeon, was in the chair, and there were representatives from other burghs. The editor states that "it was perhaps the most numerous attended public dinner that ever took place in that neat and spirited little town." Mr Macleod had previously been entertained to a public dinner at Cromarty.

Ibid.—A severe storm occurred the previous week in the Moray Firth. A herring boat and sloop were wrecked at Lossiemouth, and nine lives were lost. Two boats were swamped in Findhorn bay, but the crews were saved except one man.

Ibid.—There was correspondence about a Badenoch voter who, it was said, had pledged himself to be neutral and afterwards voted. The man himself writes in this issue asserting that he violated no pledge. "I beg to mention," he says, "that the words used by me when hard pressed to pledge were, 'As yet it is my *opinion* that I will not vote.' I never considered these words as a pledge to stand neutral." The distinction was a fine one. The same issue gives a quotation from a letter written about eighty years before by Bayne of Tulloch to Sir Harry Munro of Fowlis, relating to an electioneering contest. Bayne wrote that he had sincerely intended to support Sir Harry's interest, but he was under serious disadvantages, particularly the want of sight, which prevented his freedom of action; "for I was led about from place to place, as you must have heard, and not allowed to go to my own house until the election was over."

September 6.—Two Parliamentary Commis-

sioners, Messrs Dick and Stewart, met the ministers of the several religious congregations in the town and parish of Inverness, in order to ascertain the alleged deficiency of Church accommodation for the population at large. Clergymen of all denominations gave evidence. The Commission sat a whole day, from ten to half-past six o'clock. There is nothing of great importance in the report, but individuals who care to refer to it may find it interesting. The North Church had been opened, and the West Church was in course of erection. The foundation-stone of a new Episcopal Church (St John's) was laid on 31st August.

Ibid.—In making the alterations and repairs for the reading-rooms in the Town House, the ancient palladium, Clachnacudain, had been sunk to the level of the pavement. This roused public sentiment, and a memorial was presented to the Town Council for its restoration to its old site. A handbill was also issued, stating that the "Clachnacuddin boys" would assemble and raise the stone themselves if the local authorities did not undertake the duty before the 4th inst. Some time previous, however, the Council had agreed to proceed with the exhumation, and on the previous Saturday the task was accomplished. A crowd assembled to celebrate the occasion, and a bottle of wine was broken over the stone.

Ibid.—The Highland Society had lately awarded a silver medal to Mr John Grigor, nursery and seedsman, Forres, for a report on the native pine forests of Scotland. The report is made the subject of a column of notes.

Ibid.—As the attendance at the Northern Meeting had been falling off for some years, the Secretary, Mr A. Fraser, addressed the stewards and permanent members, requesting them and their families to make up parties and induce their friends to attend. The Secretary also announces that it is proposed to hold games on the Thursday and Friday of the Meeting, to afford outdoor amusement. This appears to have been the beginning of the present annual games at the Northern Meeting.

September 13.—On the previous Friday, the Conservative electors of Forres and district entertained the late member, Major Cumming

Bruce, and the unsuccessful candidate, Mr Mackenzie, yr. of Scatwell, to a public dinner in the St Lawrence Lodge Assembly Rooms. Brodie of Brodie was in the chair, and the attendance numbered 175. The editor remarks that "public dinners are at present the rage in the North." The newspaper files fully bear out this statement. We have already mentioned two dinners given to Macleod of Cadboll; other two followed, one at Fortrose and another at Inverness. Each political party apparently strove to get up the biggest dinner. September 20.—Mr Charles Macdougall, advocate, died at Georgetown, Demerara, on the 27th of July. He was carried off by yellow fever, which raged with unusual severity in British Guiana. "His was a hard fate, a very extensive practice opening to him; looking forward by the next packet for his appointment as Attorney-General, the salary of which office had been increased to £1000 a year." Mr Macdougall was entertained to a public dinner in Inverness in August 1836. He is described as a townsman.

Ibid.—"On the 4th inst. some of the party at Flowerdale, consisting of Lords Loftus, Alford, Jocelyn, Mr Mahar, and Captain Stephenson, killed two magnificent stags, which, from their uncommon size, had been the wonder of the neighbourhood for the last two years. The one (without head and offal) weighed 18 and the other 17 Dutch stones. The fat near the hind part was 3½ inches deep. The distance between the extreme points of the horns was, of the one 34 inches, of the other 29½ inches. Two such animals, we believe, have not been killed in the Highlands for many years."

Ibid.—At the Circuit Court two persons were convicted of forgery, and were sentenced to transportation for life. Two persons convicted of assault, but found to be insane, were ordered to be confined in jail, one at Dingwall, the other at Elgin. The Lord Justice-Clerk congratulated the Sheriff on the diminution of serious crime, but regretted to find that the crime of assault appeared to be as common as ever, if not more so. He also spoke of the benefit that would arise to the country if the Sheriffs were empowered to summon juries and dispose of minor cases.

September 27.—The editor speaks of the grati-

fyng progress made in the circulation of the "Courier," and says at the same time that he believes the number of readers to be twenty times the number of subscribers. "In the villages several families not infrequently still club for the paper; it is read by each of these successively, and is afterwards sold at half-price, when it is introduced to a new circle of readers, or is sent off to some son or brother in the East or West Indies. In the towns the same system prevails; and we know of one industrious individual in Inverness who generally purchases from ten to fifteen copies of our paper weekly, and turns an honest penny by letting them out at a small sum for every two hours." This was in the days of high-priced newspapers.

Ibid.—Messrs John Gibb & Son have obtained the contract for supplying all the granite which will be required from Aberdeen, for the river wall to be built in front of the new Houses of Parliament. This will prove an excellent winter's job for masons and others employed in the granite quarries in the vicinity of Aberdeen."

Ibid.—The obituary contains the record of the death of William Murray of Geanies, in the 38th year of his age. The editor adds—"We cannot permit this obituary notice to appear without adding that, by the death of Mr Murray, the county of Ross has lost one of its most useful and estimable public men. He held various situations, and discharged their duties with zeal and ability; while his frank and cordial manners and unaffected kindness of disposition endeared him to all with whom he had intercourse." Another obituary notice is that of the Rev. William Gordon, Elgin, in the 86th year of his age, and sixty-second of his ministry. For fifty-three years he was one of the Established clergy of Elgin. "Mr Gordon was distinguished for his sound and clear judgment, strict integrity, undeviating rectitude, and sincere unaffected piety."

October 4.—The Northern Meeting is described as the most gay and spirited that had been witnessed for at least ten years. The nobility and gentry were anxious to infuse new life into the festival. In addition to the usual balls and parties, popular games were instituted on this occasion. They were held on a field belonging to Mr Wilson, of the Caledonian

Hotel, situated near the Longman. "Considering the novelty of public sports of this description in Inverness, the competitors acquitted themselves in a highly creditable manner." The games consisted of throwing the hammer, putting the stone, running, leaping, sack and wheelbarrow races, wrestling, and rifle shooting. There was no dancing or bagpipe playing. It is announced that from £50 to £100 had been subscribed for prizes for the following year.

October 11.—"The Rev. Mr Barclay, of Auldearn, has recently shown his good taste in collecting and replacing, at considerable personal expense and trouble, various ancient monuments which had long lain scattered about the interesting Church-yard of his parish. He has also restored the original inscriptions of a tombstone and tablet, the latter in the ancient choir attached to the church, which were intended to commemorate the heroes of the Covenant, who fell at the battle of Auldearn, gained by Montrose." The tombstone was inscribed to Captain Bernard Mackenzie, and the tablet had been erected by Sir Robert Innes to three gentlemen named Murray or "Morray." It is stated as rather remarkable that a large proportion of the inhabitants of the town of Nairn, not of the fishing class, still continued to have their burial places in Auldearn, nearly three miles distant. "To these they cling with a romantic feeling, and the funerals of the poorest are well attended all the way."

Ibid.—A large body of emigrants sailed from Tobermory on the 27th of September for New South Wales. The vessel was the *Brilliant*, and its size and splendid fittings were greatly admired. "The people to be conveyed by this vessel are decidedly the most valuable that have ever left the shores of Great Britain; they are all of excellent moral character, and from their knowledge of agriculture, and management of sheep and cattle, must prove a most valuable acquisition to a colony like New South Wales." The Rev. Mr Macpherson, of Tobermory, preached a farewell sermon before the party sailed. The total number of emigrants was 322, made up as follows:—From Ardnamurchan and Strontian, 105; Coll and Tiree, 104; Mull and Iona, 56; Morven, 25; Dunoon, 28; teachers, 2; sur-

geons, 2. A visitor from New South Wales presented as many of the party as he met with letters of introduction, and expressed himself highly gratified with the prospect of having so valuable an addition to the colony. A Government agent superintended the embarkation.

October 18.—On the previous Thursday Mr Macleod of Cudboll, M.P., was entertained to a public dinner in the Northern Meeting Rooms, Inverness. Captain Fraser of Balnain was in the chair, and the company numbered over 300. The dinner speeches are reported at length. A Conservative dinner was held soon afterwards at Fortrose.

Ibid.—A University Commission was about to sit at Aberdeen. The "Courier" suggested that instead of maintaining two Colleges at Aberdeen, the authorities should transfer one to Inverness. The opportunity, however, was not embraced.

November 1.—The following paragraph appears in the obituary column:—"In the China seas, on the 17th August 1836, aged 34, Captain William Mackay, of the brig *Fairy*, universally respected by the community in which he lived, and deeply lamented by his relations at home. He fell a sacrifice to the rapacity of a mutinous crew, who conspired together to gain possession of the specie with which he was returning to Canton, and having first murdered the officers, one after another, made their escape with the treasure after sinking the vessel near the coast of Manila."

November 8.—A meeting of the shareholders of the *Duchess of Sutherland* steamer is reported. The accounts showed a surplus of receipts for the season of £1553. There was, however, a large sum due for interest, and a motion was submitted requiring the manager to call a special general meeting, in order to consider and dispose of a motion to sell the vessel and dissolve the Company. This resolution was adopted by shareholders representing 335 shares, as against shareholders representing 324 shares. The amount of capital advanced, of interest and of debt, came to £17,920. The original cost of the vessel was £16,832, and allowing for wear and tear, it was computed that during the three years of the co-partnery the loss had amounted to £5296.

Ibid.—A new bridge at Arkaig, Lochaber, near

the house and grounds of Lochiel, had just been completed. It consisted of a timber trussed arch of 70 feet span, with stone abutments. The bridge was designed by Mr Joseph Mitchell.

Ubid.—At the annual election for the Inverness Town Council, four Conservatives and three Liberals were returned. This left the Council in exactly the same position as before, consisting of eleven Conservatives and ten Liberals. The contest, says the report, was conducted with order and good humour.

November 15.—“On Wednesday last the venerable minister of Ardersier, the Rev. Pryse Campbell, baptised his own great-grandson. Children and grand-children of the rev. gentleman were present at the ceremony.” The same issue records the erection of a church near Erchless Castle, in Strathglass, by Chisholm of Chisholm, M.P.

November 22.—The death is recorded of Mr David Stalker, solicitor, Inverness. Mr Stalker was for some time editor of the “Inverness Journal.”

December 6.—Mr George Cameron, solicitor, Inverness, was appointed Sheriff-Substitute at Fort-William. A meeting of the shareholders of the Duchess of Sutherland steamer confirmed the resolution to dispose of the vessel, and wind up the Company.

December 27.—The last publication of the year expresses sorrow and regret that war had broken out in Canada. The insurgents had assembled near Montreal, to the number of 3000, and inflicted a defeat on the Royal troops, who lost two pieces of cannon.

No. XIV.

The year 1838 is memorable politically for the troubles which arose from the revolt in Canada and the proceedings of Lord Durham as High Commissioner. The Radicals became increasingly hostile to the Whig Government of Lord Melbourne, and the Tories were powerfully led by Sir Robert Peel. O'Connell and his Irish followers were active in various ways, which did not add to the popularity of the Government. The coronation of Queen Victoria in June formed a pleasant interlude to the angry discussions of Parliament. "For the first time since the reign of Charles II. there was a public procession, affording a large mass of the people an opportunity of being witnesses of the pageant, which for nearly two centuries had been reserved for a select few." It is noted by annalists that the loudest acclamations were for the young Queen, the Duke of Wellington, and the Duke's old antagonist, Marshal Soult, Duke of Dalmatia. In Scotland the year was marked by the decision of the Court of Session in the Auchterarder case, which ultimately led to the Disruption. The spring of 1838 was very severe, and notes will be found below on the weather in the Highlands.

From the "Inverness Courier."

1838.

January 3.—"We are glad to find that our friend and countryman, Mr Murdo Young, editor and proprietor of the 'Sun,' has purchased from Mr D. Whittle Harvey, and the other proprietors, the copyright of the 'True Sun,' and has merged the Radical journal in his own." These were two papers which made considerable stir in their day. Mr Murdo Young was a son of the original proprietor of the "Inverness Journal," the first newspaper north of Aberdeen. The "True Sun" was conducted at a heavy loss. In connection with the two papers, mention is made of Mr Patrick Grant, formerly the proprietor of Lakesfield, in Glen-Urquhart, who, it was stated, had spent many thousands on the newspaper press in London.

At the time of the amalgamation he was in Australia.

Ibid.—On Monday, the 18th ult., the streets of Forres were lighted with gas.

Ibid.—A report is published by the Glasgow Committee which collected and distributed funds in the previous spring for the relief of distress in the Highlands. The total contributed was £29,464, and after supplying food and clothing and meeting other charges, there was a balance in hand of £5847.

January 10.—There is an account of rejoicings in Strathspey, in celebration of a visit paid to the district by the Master of Grant, son and heir of the Hon. Colonel Grant of Grant. There was a dinner at Grantown, and in other districts balls and bonfires. In each case a feature of the festivities was an escort of Highlanders, in the full tartans of the clan, and carrying torches.

January 17.—There is a report of the trial of cotton-spinners at Glasgow, the managers or agents of a league who endeavoured to raise the rate of wages by means of assault, fire-raising, and murder. Their methods were much the same as those that were exposed at Sheffield many years afterwards. Five men were convicted, but not on the capital branch of the charge, and were sentenced to transportation for seven years.

Ibid.—The sale of the steamer *Duchess of Sutherland* is recorded. It was purchased by Mr David Chalmers, on behalf of the Aberdeen Steam Navigation Company, for £13,500. A company had already been organised in Aberdeen for continuing a vessel on the route between Inverness and London. It was called the *North Star*. In a subsequent issue it is stated that a steamer of a hundred horse-power was to attend the *North Star* to collect and distribute the goods of ports which the larger vessel could not enter.

Ibid.—An Act for the institution of Circuit Courts, to be held by the Sheriff or Sheriff-Substitute, for the recovery of small debts, had recently come into force. As an instance of the popularity of the Act, it is stated that on the first circuit of Sheriff Colquhoun, no fewer than 143 cases were called at Kingussie and 67 at Grantown.

January 24.—“The frequent representations made to the Postmaster-General, the Earl of

Lichfield, of the abstraction of newspapers from their envelopes during their transit, has induced his lordship to issue an order, permitting the name and address of the party to whom it is directed to be 'written on the paper itself as well as on the wrapper.' This will afford a guarantee in case of the wrapper being defaced or accidentally torn off."

Ibid.—It is stated that the sport of curling might now be said to have fairly commenced in Inverness. "Last week the curling-stones, brooms, and other accompaniments were brought forward, and Loch-na-Sanaid, on the road to Dochfour, with the picturesque hills of Tomnahurich and Torvain, echoed for the first time to the shouts and noise of the 'roaring play.' A bonspiel was played on Saturday between a party of married men on one side and bachelors on the other. Grave Magistrates, Councillors, lawyers, and other citizens mingled in the pastime, and were as eager and animated as ever they were at the Council Board. . . . The novelty of the game drew forth a number of ladies and gentlemen, and there were several hundreds of spectators on the ice and in its neighbourhood. The public are indebted to Mr Wilson, of the Caledonian Hotel, for the introduction of this pastime. He provided the curling stones, and has very handsomely given the use of a coach and horses to convey the parties to and from the scene of action."

Ibid.—A curious story is given and vouched for concerning the adventures of a pair of geese. A sheep farmer living at Borley, in the county of Sutherland, took the farm of Mudale, inland about thirty miles, and carried with him a pair of geese, which were conveyed in a covered basket. The new residence did not suit the feathered couple; so they set off down the river to Loch-Naver, then to Invernaver, after that by sea to Rispond and Durin. From the latter place they walked across the country to their native lake at Borley. The wanderers had been six weeks on their travels, taking a circuitous route of a hundred miles. Unfortunately, at the final stage of their journey, they were shot in a corn-field.

Ibid.—Sir Alexander Leith Hay, member for the Elgin District of Burghs, had been appointed Governor of the Bermuda Islands. He had

sat in Parliament for five years, and proved a most acceptable member. "Having occasion to vacate his seat as often as he was appointed Clerk of the Ordnance, he was elected five times during the period he sat in Parliament, thrice without opposition, and twice after defeating Mr Holt Mackenzie in 1832, by a majority of 125, and Brodie of Brodie in 1834, by a majority of 120. At the last General Election his popularity among his constituents was so well established and recognised that no opposition was offered to his return." The Hon. Fox Maule came forward as a candidate in succession to Sir Alexander, and was returned without opposition.

February 7.—"We beg to intimate that the 'Courier' Office will shortly be removed to those commodious premises at the foot of Bank Lane, adjoining the Bank of Scotland." These are the premises, which in an enlarged form, the proprietors still occupy. Previous to 1838 the offices were at 45 High Street.

Ibid.—"We regret to announce the death of Dr Smith, Provost of Nairn, which took place on the 31st ult. For a long period Dr Smith was unremitting in his duty to the public as a skilful, benevolent, and generous practitioner of medicine, a useful citizen, and a warm-hearted, kind, and faithful friend. The funeral of Dr Smith took place on Monday last, when the Clergy, Magistrates, and Council, and a vast number of gentlemen from the town and county attended the mournful ceremony. It was calculated that upwards of a thousand persons were present, the greatest number of individuals that ever attended a funeral in Nairn."

February 14.—The year was marked by a severe frost and snowstorm, general throughout the country. The North mails were blocked, and on the East Coast the snow lay deeper than in any other quarter. One day the mail guard from Aberdeen had to take to horseback at Huntly, and after leaving Keith disappeared in a wreath, from which he was with difficulty rescued. "He at length arrived at Inverness, having taken thirty hours and twenty minutes to accomplish the journey, which usually occupies about twelve hours." Meanwhile the mail by the Highland road kept wonderfully good time. In the town of Inverness the price of butcher meat had risen, and also that of

oatmeal, the latter owing to the stoppage of the water mills. "From the want of the means of communication many of our shops are running short of supplies, and altogether, if the storm does not soon abate, we shall be placed in a state of complete blockade." The poor were suffering severely.

Ibid.—"We are glad to learn that our accomplished countryman, James Bailie Fraser, Esq., the celebrated Oriental traveller, who, by direction of the British Government, remained with the Persian Princes during their recent visit to London, and returned with them to Constantinople, has just published a Narrative of their residence in London, where they were received in the highest circles, and had the most favourable opportunity of viewing society in all its aspects. The Narrative also embraces an account of their escape from Persia, which was accompanied by many remarkable adventures."

February 21.—Mr John Westwood, gardener, Belladrum, sends the following readings of the thermometer:—At eight o'clock on the night of Wednesday, 14th inst., 8 degrees below zero; at ten o'clock $1\frac{1}{2}$ degrees below; at twelve 2 degrees below; and at four on the morning of Thursday 6 degrees below. The mercury began to rise about five o'clock on the latter day, and every night afterwards ranged from 32 degrees to 24 degrees. Mr Westwood observes that owing to the lowness of the situation, the want of a free circulation of air, &c., the frost was generally more severe there than at any other place in the district.

Ibid.—"Mr Baillie of Tarradale's keeper shot lately, right and left, a falcon and blue hawk, each having a recently killed snipe in its talons."

February 28.—On the morning of the 26th a fire broke out in the square at Tulloch Castle, near Dingwall, which partially consumed the front part of the extensive range of buildings. With assistance from Dingwall and from neighbouring farms, the fire was checked.

Ibid.—The Kirk-Session of Inverness had taken into consideration a proposal for laying on an assessment on the burgh and parish for the relief of the poor. They desired to have a conference on the subject with the Town Council, but the Council considered it inex-

pedient to accept the invitation. The next issue stated that the proposed assessment had been postponed until a special meeting of Kirk-Session, heritors, and other inhabitants could be called. The number of paupers was said to be about 800, of whom about 380 were unprovided for either by the Session funds or charitable endowments.

March 7.—Mr Robert Falconar was elected Provost of Nairn in room of the late Dr Smith. The same issue says—"The Town Council of Nairn have passed a resolution that the town bell should be rung as formerly for the Established Church. It was suspended by an order of a former Council of the burgh."

Ibid.—An illustration of the severity of the season was presented by the appearance of a flock of swans on Loch-Lochny. They had also visited Loch-Ness and other lakes. Seven had been shot at Laggan, two at Clunes, and four or five about Fort-Augustus. A number of black swans had been seen on Loch-Quoich, in the Glengarry country. Loch-Oich was frozen over to a depth of fifteen inches, and was used by the country people as a common thoroughfare. Two vessels had been locked up in the River Beauuly for eight weeks. There was great distress in the towns and villages, and meetings were held to raise funds for the relief of the poor.

March 14.—This issue contains the decision of the Court of Session in the famous Auchterarder case. A majority of the Judges, eight in number, decided that the Veto Act was illegal, while a minority of five gave a contrary opinion.

Ibid.—Died, at Nairn, on the 28th ult., Mrs Elizabeth Ketchen, widow of the Rev. Isaac Ketchen, who was for forty years minister of the Secession congregation there. Mrs Ketchen was a sister of the late Brodie of Brodie, and aunt of the Duchess of Gordon. She died in the 92nd year of her age. A cordial tribute is paid to her religious character and active goodness.

Ibid.—"On Sunday last, after divine service, a public baptism took place in the High Church here—the first circumstance of the kind witnessed there for a great number of years, though the ceremony is common in many parts of Scotland. The child was a daughter of the Rev. Mr Clark, Inverness, and the cere-

mony was performed in a very impressive manner by the Rev. Dr Rose, who descended from the pulpit to administer the sacred rite in an adjoining seat." The same number records "a deliverance from the icy rigours which have so long bound us." The coaches from Aberdeen and Elgin had begun to run, but there was still no regular communication north of Tain.

March 21.—A renewal of the storm had taken place, slight in Inverness but severe in other places. In Lochaber it was the most severe storm of snow and drift that had occurred during the winter. "Last week an immense avalanche of snow fell in the parish of Eddrachilis, above Scourie (in Sutherland); it carried off trees and stones in its descent, and killed ten red deer, which were grazing at the foot of the mountain."

March 28.—"We understand that George Cameron, Esq., solicitor here, has been appointed Sheriff-Substitute of Easter Ross and Cromarty in room of Mr David Ross, resigned. Mr Cameron had previously accepted the Sheriff-Substituteship of Fort-William, but has relinquished it in favour of the above appointment." Mr Andrew Fraser, W.S., was appointed Sheriff-Substitute of the Fort-William district.

April 4.—A meeting of Magistrates, heritors, and Kirk-Session, relative to the levying of assessments for relief of the poor, was held and adjourned. It was stated that the church collections of Inverness last year for the benefit of the poor were £294 11s 11d, but with rents and charity funds there was a sum annually available of about £600. The number receiving relief was 421.

April 11.—A piece of plate, value 200 guineas, was presented to General Sir James Macdonell, brother of the late Glengarry, by the inhabitants of Armagh and its vicinity, as a memorial of the regard which he conciliated during a seven years' residence among them in command of the Northern Districts of Ireland. The departure of General Macdonell to assume command of the troops serving in Canada called forth this tribute of respect.

April 18.—A man from the Island of Lewis was convicted of the crime of murdering his wife, and was sentenced to death. He was afterwards certified to be insane, and ordered to be

kept in custody. The case was one of jealousy, growing out of religious mania. Lord Cockburn presided as Judge, and it is stated that he bade fair to be as eminent on the bench as he had proved to be as an advocate. "His plain good sense, sagacity, and discernment—the ease with which he separates the chaff from the wheat, whether tendered by witness or counsel—and the homely earnestness and deep pathos which he can command upon all necessary occasions, joined to his unostentatious gentlemanly demeanour, made a strong impression upon the crowded audiences that thronged the Court-House." At the Circuit there were some cases of violent personal assault, which, we are told, "is the most common crime in the Highlands."

Ibid.—The snowstorm had been renewed. "Sunday was a dreadful day of sleet and wind—a perfect tempest. Monday was clouded with snow, and yesterday (Tuesday) we had furious blasts and occasional snow showers."

Ibid.—An obituary notice from the "Globe" records the death of Robert Gordon Roy, for many years one of the proprietors of that journal. Mr Roy died at Forres, his native place, in his 68th year. The paragraph adds—"Mr Roy was in literature, ancient and modern, nearly a universalist, in manners a finished gentleman, and in morals an Israelite without guile. This brief notice is felt to be due to his memory by a co-proprietor, who deemed it an honour to have attracted his regard at a very early period of life, and who maintained with him an uninterrupted friendship for fifty-one years."

Ibid.—The ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the new Court-House and public offices at Forres was gone through on Friday week, by Mr John Hoyer, late Speaker of the House of Assembly, Grenada, who officiated as Provincial Grand Master, by mandate from Sir Thomas Dick Lauder. There was a great procession of Masons, Magistrates, and Councillors, workmen, and school children. Rev. Dr Rose, of Drainie, officiated as chaplain.

April 25.—The death is announced of Sir Reginald Macdonald Stuart Seton, of Staffa, at his residence in Edinburgh. "Born in the Highlands, and imbued with the prepossessions of their inhabitants, he so loved to per-

petuate the relics that still remain of the ancient modes and habits of the people, that he only differed from the chiefs of by-gone days in his anxious wish to see introduced among his countrymen the moral and religious improvements which in neighbouring places characterised his time. At the early age of twenty-one he was elected, and for thirty-nine successive years continued to be ruling elder for the General Assembly, a fact perhaps unparalleled in the annals of that venerable body." Sir Reginald was for twenty-six years Sheriff of Stirlingshire, and was long Honorary Secretary to the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland. Sir Walter Scott knew him well, and paid a tribute to his warmth of heart. Sir Reginald was in his sixty-first year.

Ibid.—There is a long report of a meeting of the Synod of Ross, which discussed an appeal from the Presbytery of Tain in the case of a presentation to the parish of Logie-Easter. The people objected to the minister presented under the Veto Act. The Presbytery allowed a proof of certain averments. The majority of the congregation held that this was not legitimate, as the Act simply provided that no person was to be placed in a parish contrary to the will of the people. The Synod sustained the appeal, and remitted the case to the Presbytery to proceed in terms of the Act. Mr E. S. Gordon acted as counsel for the parishioners, instructed by Mr Charles Stewart, Inverness. Rev. Mr Stewart, of Cromarty, took an active part in the discussion, speaking on the popular side. The same issue records the ordination of the Rev. Thomas Maclauchlan, as assistant and successor to his father in the united parishes of Moy and Dararossie.

May 2.—The Synod of Moray had before it the case of the presentation of John Edwards to the parish of Marnoch, in Strathbogie, which had been referred by the Presbytery to the Synod. Two motions were submitted to the Synod. The first instructed the Presbytery to find the presentee disqualified, as there was a large majority of male heads of families on the communion roll opposed to him, and further, "that in case the presentee refuse obedience to the sentence of the Church Courts, or take any steps to defeat the same,

they shall deal with him for that offence as a breach of the promise to obey the judicatories of the Church, under which he came for receiving his license to preach the gospel." The second motion proposed to refer the whole case to the Assembly. The first motion was carried by 22 votes to 4. Afterwards an overture was submitted, asking the General Assembly to enact "that all Presbyteries be instructed to take steps for deposing all ministers and depriving of their license all probationers, who shall attempt to intrude themselves on parishes contrary to the consent of the majority of male heads of families in communion with the Church, and who will not acquiesce in the judgments and decisions of the Church Courts." This overture was adopted by 18 votes to 13.

Ibid.—The issue gives an account of the exploring work of Thomas Simpson and P. W. Dease on the North Coast of America. They were sent out with twelve men, equipped by the Hudson Bay Company. Thomas Simpson was a native of Ross-shire, son of the late Bailie Alexander Simpson, of Dingwall. He left this country in 1829 to act as secretary to his relative, Mr George Simpson, of the Hudson Bay Company.

May 9.—Mr George Cameron, solicitor, was presented by friends in Inverness with a handsome tea and coffee service, on his leaving to take up his appointment at Tain as Sheriff-Substitute for Easter Ross and Cromarty. Rev. Mr Clark brought forward, in the Presbytery of Inverness, an overture to the General Assembly, asking them to petition Parliament for the repeal of the Patronage Act of 1712. The motion was defeated by a majority of one, seven votes to six. Some of the members preferred the existing Veto Act. It is stated that Mr Baillie of Dochfour had erected a new schoolhouse at Dochgarroch, solely at his own expense. A great robbery is reported from the office of the Aberdeen Banking Company, in the city of Aberdeen. The amount stolen was no less than £16,000. The Bank had been opened with skeleton keys.

Ibid.—"The weather is now warm and sunny, and vegetation is making rapid progress. We understand, however, that a farmer in our neighbourhood has been forced to plough up a wheat field of eight acres, which had been

destroyed by the frost. The sheep farmers must now be in a great measure relieved from their fears."

May 16.—An instance is given of expeditious travelling between Edinburgh and Cheltenham. The passenger travelled by mail to Liverpool, thence by railway to Birmingham, and then by coach to Cheltenham. The paragraph proceeds—"Thus he performed a journey of 350 miles between seven o'clock on the morning of Saturday and five in the afternoon of Sunday; having during that time rested altogether about an hour and three-quarters. A traveller leaving Inverness on Monday morning per mail, might with ease reach London on Wednesday evening at eight o'clock by the following route:—Mail to Edinburgh, which it reaches at six o'clock next morning; Tuesday—per mail to Liverpool, where it arrives at six next morning; Wednesday—per railroad to London, which it reaches at eight in the evening. The same distance might also be accomplished in about the same time by steam navigation. Looking at these results, and considering what travelling was 'sixty years since,' or even half that period, we may well exclaim—Prodigious!"

Ibid.—A meeting of Magistrates, clergymen, and inhabitants of Lochaber was held at Fort-William on the 8th inst., for the purpose of adopting means to promote emigration from that district to the Australian colonies. Upwards of 260 persons were present. It was stated that there was a strong feeling in favour of emigration among the people of the district, upwards of 1200 having pledged themselves, and prepared to emigrate under the Colonial Act. They had expected a vessel to come to Fort-William to convey them, free of expense, to Australia, but as this expectation had been disappointed, the meeting resolved to memorialise Lord Glenelg, the Colonial Secretary, praying him to have a vessel sent forthwith to carry away the families. Another resolution stated that an extensive emigration of a voluntary and unaided character had taken place from Lochaber and neighbouring districts during the past two years, and that no county abounded more than this with active and industrious young men in want of employment.

Ibid.—After a few days' warm sunshine, cold

winds and frost had come again. On two days there were hail and snow, and the surrounding hills were white.

May 23.—“We understand it has been decided by the Sheriff in Inverness that no pontage or custom is chargeable on grain passing the old bridge here. The question arose between the tacksman of the Petty Customs and one of the farmers of the parish of Petty.”

May 30.—There is a report of the discussion in the General Assembly on the Auchterarder case. The motion by Mr Buchanan, of Glasgow, affirming the spiritual independence of the Church, and expressing its determination to enforce submission to its spiritual jurisdiction on all office-bearers and members, was carried by 183 votes to 142, giving a majority of 41.

Ibid.—The Assembly afterwards took up the case of Logie-Easter. The facts appeared to be that on the vacancy occurring the parishioners seemed to be resolved on obtaining for their minister the Rev. Mr Macdonald, of Plockton. The patron did not acquiesce in this, but offered the parishioners a leet of five clergymen in the neighbourhood. The parishioners did not object to hear them preach, but they did object to hear them on the understanding that they were to choose any of them for their minister, their minds being made up on behalf of Mr Macdonald. The patron then presented Mr Daniel Macbride, Prestonpans. At the proper time thirteen out of the seventeen male heads of families, communicants, dissented. Twelve out of the thirteen took the prescribed declaration that they were not actuated by factious motives, the other being ill. The Presbytery then rejected Mr Macbride, and the appeal was taken. Mr Maitland Makgill expressed the belief that the parishioners had not been actuated by the spirit which was contemplated by the Veto law. At the same time he thought the appellants were not entitled to go to a proof of factious motives, and he moved that the Assembly dismiss the appeal, and remit to the Presbytery to proceed in terms of the Veto Act. The Procurator differed from Mr Makgill, and proposed to get quit of the case on a point of form. It appeared that the Presbytery had allowed the presentee to lead proof of factious motives,

and no competent appeal having been taken from that sentence, it became the law of the case. He therefore moved the Assembly to sustain the appeal, and remit to the Presbytery to take proof of the allegations made by the appellants. The Procurator's motion was carried by a majority of 44.

Ibid.—The Chisholm issued an address announcing his resignation as representative in Parliament of the county of Inverness. He took this step, he stated, on the ground of his health and for other urgent reasons. In the same issue appears the address of Francis W. Grant, Master of Grant, as a candidate for the seat. He was afterwards elected without opposition.

June 6.—The estate of Glenshiel, in Ross-shire, beside Glenelg, was purchased from Mr Lillingstone, by Mr J. E. Baillie, for the sum of £24,500. Mr Arthur Cooper, solicitor, Inverness, was appointed Town-Clerk of Fortrose.

June 13.—A descriptive writer in London remarked at this time that Lord Brougham was now dressing rather smartly. He had laid aside, "at least for a time," the tartan trousers and waistcoat which he had worn since his Scottish tour in 1834. He was said to have bought as much tartan cloth when in Inverness as would make a dozen pairs of trousers and a dozen waistcoats. Now, however, he appeared "in cloth of a more usual kind," and displayed on his breast a handsome gold chain. The editor remarks—"Lord Brougham seems to have turned a sort of dandy in his outward man. Now, certainly his lordship was far from displaying anything of this kind when we saw him in Inverness. His dress was more striking than valuable. Sydney Smith said of clerical horses that the rector's horse was beautiful, but the curate's was picturesque, and Lord Brougham's appearance seemed to come under the latter category."

Ibid.—Various items may be mentioned. There was no Savings Bank at this time in Inverness. The capercailzie had made its appearance in Caithness, and a couple of fine specimens had been added to a private museum in Wick. The election of the Master of Grant as representative for the county of Inverness took place on the 12th inst. Rejoicings were held

on the Cawdor estate on the 11th to celebrate the coming-of-age of Lord Emlyn.

June 20.—There was a meeting at Cromarty on the previous Thursday to consider the conduct of the parish clergyman in fixing the Communion Fast-Day for the day of the Queen's Coronation. This was the beginning of a controversy in the little town, which is narrated with a good deal of humour in the 24th chapter of Hugh Miller's "Schools and Schoolmasters." He says—"The Liberals held what was very properly called a public meeting, seeing that, though the public had failed to attend it, the public had been quite at liberty to do so, nay, had even been specially invited; and there appeared in the provincial newspapers a long report of its proceedings, including five speeches—all written by a legal gentleman—in which it was designated a meeting of the inhabitants of the town and parish of Cromarty." This was the meeting reported in the present issue.

Ibid.—The proposed scheme of penny postage was by this time becoming a public question. The editor writes:—"We beg to remind our readers of the necessity of petitioning Parliament, once and again till the object is obtained, in favour of Mr Hill's plan. This undoubtedly is the most valuable practical reform that we can expect to see carried for years to come. Every town and county should take the matter up, and urge it on the attention of their Parliamentary representatives."

Ibid.—"Died, on the 20th ult., at Campbelltown, Fort-George, where he had resided for the last 52 years, as an out-pensioner of Chelsea Hospital, Christopher Macrae, at the advanced age of 105. He was a native of Kintail, and enlisted not very early in life in the 8th Foot, in which regiment he served for 27 years, and he did duty for six years more in a garrison battalion. He was a man of temperate and correct habits, his faculties were little impaired, and he used to take his daily walk till within three weeks of his death, when his energies received an irrecoverable shock by the death of his wife at the age of 86."

June 27.—"The estate of Redcastle, county of Ross, has been purchased by Colonel Hugh Baillie of Tarradale, from the heirs of the late Sir William Fettes, for the sum of £120,000."

July 4.—This issue contains an account of the Coronation of Queen Victoria. It gives a portrait of the Queen and a picture of the scene in Westminster Abbey. There are also reports of local celebrations.

July 11.—The list of Coronation honours includes a baronetcy conferred on George Macpherson-Grant, Esq. of Ballindalloch. The editor says—"We congratulate Ballindalloch on the well-won and worthily bestowed honour conferred upon him by her Majesty, which we trust he will long enjoy. His high character, rank, possessions, and public services marked him out as a fit object for the Royal favour."

July 11.—Hugh Miller's letter on the Cromarty controversy appears in this issue. He says in his reminiscences—"I fairly succeeded, as there were not a few comical circumstances in the transaction, in getting the laughers on my side." We have no doubt he did. The letter is couched in a vein of clever banter, and displays much of the literary and controversial skill that afterwards distinguished the writer. He says that the official demonstration in honour of the Coronation was only postponed, and came off a few days later with great success.

Ibid.—"Died, at Fraserburgh, on the 29th ult., the Right Rev. Alexander Jolly, D.D., Bishop of Moray. For some time before his death he had been unable, from age and infirmities, to perform his official duties. He was consecrated in 1796, and continued during the long period of 42 years to command the reverence and affection of all who knew him, and of thousands who only heard of his virtues, as the finest and most solitary modern specimen of the primitive saint and churchman. His meekness and humility were without bounds; and his charity was so extensive that he could, with the greatest difficulty, be induced to believe ill of any of his fellow-creatures."

July 18.—The Sheep and Wool Fair held the previous week was very brisk. In wool there was a rise of thirty per cent. compared with the previous year's prices, and in sheep an advance of from eight to ten per cent. The most valuable lot of wedders was the stock belonging to Mr Houston of Kintradwell, which was bought by a Liverpool salesman for £1 10s 6d each. Another Sutherland gentleman

sold his lot of sheep for £1 9s 9d each; and a third from the same county (Mr Sellar, Morvich), topped the market for Cheviot wool, laid, which brought £1 2s 6d per stone. Ewes were greatly in demand to replace losses in various flocks, and the best sold for 22s. The run of prices is quoted as follows:—Cheviot widders, 23s to 30s; ewes, 17s to 22s; lambs, 12s to 14s. Cross widders, 18s to 26s; ewes, 15s to 20s; lambs, 10s to 11s 6d. Blackfaced widders, 15s to 20s 6d; ewes, 10s to 13s. In wool the prices were—Cheviot, laid, washed, 19s to 22s 6d; unwashed, 16s to 17s 6d; cross, washed, 15s to 16s 6d; unwashed, 13s to 15s; blackfaced, laid, 9s to 10s 6d. Some choice lots of Cheviot wool, white, sold from 30s to 32s, and blackfaced white at 12s per stone. "Every year," we are told, "diminishes the amount of blackfaced stock and wool brought into the market, the superior breed of sheep being now generally reared." The question of uniting the two ordinaries again excited acrimonious discussion, and the editor expresses the hope that in future there will be less "personal and political feeling."

Ibid.—A column of Highland anecdotes is published, as picked up from a gentleman "rich in memorials of the olden time." One mentions a stone in the church-yard of Dunlichity, in Strathnairn, which was used by Highlanders in former times for sharpening arrows. It was situated in the east corner of the wall which surrounded the burying-ground of the Macphails and Shaws. Another anecdote is as follows:—"Payments in kind, commonly called 'kain,' long continued in the Highlands. In 1715 the lady of Aberarder had a number of fowls, eggs, &c., delivered to her by way of rent. This prudent lady had a kind of measure for eggs, with a round hole through it, so that everyone that was too small and did not stick in the hole was invariably returned to the tenants, with instructions to send larger eggs in their stead."

Ibid.—Extracts are given from a letter written by Donald Macleod, one of the men who emigrated from Snizort, in the Island of Skye, to New South Wales. It was dated Paterson River, February 2, 1838. The letter was cheerful, the people doing well. All the Skye contingent were settled in one place, having

their own minister with them. Donald wrote to his friends not to be afraid of the sea, for "he had sometimes more trouble going to Flada-chuin than he experienced during all his long voyage."

July 25.—Two volumes which had been prepared by Mr Thomas Telford, C.E., were published by one of his executors, Mr Rickman. They were to some degree biographical, but relating chiefly to the great works which Mr Telford had executed. One was a thick quarto volume, and the other a large volume of engravings. "We have seldom," says the editor, "seen a more superb work; nearly £4000, we believe, has been expended on the plates and letterpress." Mr Rickman writes of his friend—"Telford loved his profession, and was so energetic in any task before him that all other motives became subordinate to it. He formed no matrimonial connection, and lived as a soldier, always in active service, without fixed habitation, until he had reached that age which our forefathers deemed the usual close of life. Thus the acquisition and accumulation of property had always been a secondary consideration with him." Telford left legacies to the amount of £16,600. This was not a large sum, considering the magnitude of the works on which he was employed.

August 8.—The Shetlanders were in a state of destitution, and a committee was making efforts to obtain assistance from the fund subscribed the previous year for the relief of distress in the Highlands and Islands. No less than £20,000 of this fund remained unappropriated. Captain J. E. Gordon, formerly M.P. for Dundalk, who was interested in Ross-shire, proposed that part of the money should go to the support of a dispensary at Strathpeffer Spa. This proposal aroused strong criticism. It was at first accepted by the London Committee, but afterwards rescinded.

August 15.—The restoration of the Cathedral Church of Dornoch was now completed. It was carried out at the expense of the Duchess-Countess of Sutherland, and is said to have cost over £6000. The parish clergyman of the day would not sanction the introduction of stained-glass windows.

Ibid.—The story is told of the melancholy fate

of a poor strolling player and his boy. They had gone to Lairg, in Sutherland, about nine months before, and set out in the direction of Altnaharra, to interest people in a proposed entertainment. The man's wife and daughter, who had accompanied them to Lairg, remained there for a time, but as the two failed to return, they subsequently left the place. Early in August the remains of the unfortunate stroller and his son were found on a solitary part of the farm of Shinness. They had apparently sunk on the ground exhausted, and died together, the father supporting the boy's head and covering it with part of his coat. "Thus perished the lone outcast of the drama, with his unfortunate son, in a land of strangers, amidst the wildest scenes of nature, and under circumstances as touching as any which draw tears on the stage." The pathetic story is reproduced in full in the Highland Notebook.

August 22.—Parliament was prorogued on the 16th inst. by her Majesty in person. The session had been laborious and trying to Ministers. Lord Durham's policy in Canada was the theme of warm discussion.

Ibid.—The statue which crowns the colossal monument on Ben-Bhraggie, to the memory of the first Duke of Sutherland, was approaching completion. "We had the curiosity last week to measure the dimensions of the head of the statue. Its circumference is ten feet two inches; from the forehead to the back of the head is three feet two inches, and across the temple is two feet nine inches. Sir Francis Chantrey may well feel gratified by the success with which his assistant has worked out his admirable model on so magnificent a scale."

August 29.—"A prospectus will be found in our advertising columns of a new Joint Stock Bank, proposed to be established in Inverness." This was the beginning of the Caledonian Banking Company.

September 5.—Extracts are given from a manuscript volume preserved at Moyhall, written by Lady Ann Duff or Mackintosh in the eighteenth century. It gives particulars of the funeral of the nineteenth Chief, who died at Dalcross Castle in December 1704. "He lay in state from the 9th December to the 18th of January. There were two thousand foot, of

his own name and clan, at the funeral, besides the Macphersons and Farquharsons. There were two hundred horse, or more, at it. Keppoch was there, and eleven score of foot. It is said that when the first part of the procession was entering the Church-yard of Petty, the last was only leaving Dalcross, a distance of nearly three miles. In order to please the common people, the corpse being put upon a hearse having six cross bars, was carried on their shoulders; and old women accompanied the procession, who sang melancholy songs lamenting the deceased, which is called singing the coronach. The family arms were placed on the coffin, and the piper, with a black flag to his pipe, also attended." The twentieth Chief, Lachlan, who died in 1731, lay in state at Dalcross Castle for six weeks, until his successor, William, who was abroad, could return to be present at the funeral. "The expense attending his interment cost £700 sterling, and twice the number of men were present." The writer, Lady Ann, was the widow of the twentieth Chief, and daughter of Alexander Duff of Drummuir. She disapproved of such "parades." The same lady entertained Prince Charles and the Duke of Cumberland at Inverness in 1746, and remarked, "I've had two King's bairns living with me in my time, and to tell you the truth I wish I may never have another." According to Mr Mackintosh, the historian of the clan, Lady Ann survived her husband, the twentieth Chief, nineteen years.

Ibid.—The same issue contains extracts from a paper in the "Quarterly Journal of Agriculture," on the causes of the recent destitution in the Highlands. It was written by Mr Alexander Macgregor, licentiate of the Church of Scotland, manse of Kilmuir, Skye, afterwards so well known as the minister of the West Church, Inverness. Among the immediate causes of destitution were the failure of the kelp trade and the herring fisheries, the fall in the value of black cattle, and the cessation of employment at the making of public roads. In addition to these are enumerated, first, an excess of population; second, early and improvident marriages; third, the lotting system and the continued sub-division of

lands; fourth, bad husbandry, or the mismanagement of domestic economy. Mr Macgregor gives a striking account of the evils of sub-division. "On many farms," he says, "by means of this baneful system, the population has doubled within the last sixteen years." He also mentions that in the immigrant ships the previous year, 459 persons were from the different parishes in Skye, and these had left behind them 264 individuals, their nearest relatives, of whom 103 were parents or aged sisters, who had thus lost their chief stay and support. The editor joins in condemning the practice of continued sub-division, and suggests that the fisheries on the West Coast might be extended. "The greatest fishing now carried on in the isles," he says, "is by the London cod-smacks, and by the Irish, who have frequented for some years the different banks in the channels between Barra-Head, Coll, and Tiree. Why should not our own countrymen avail themselves of these natural advantages? Why fold their hands in supineness and despair?" The problem at that time was evidently more than usually serious.

Ibid.—The announcement is made of the appointment of Mr Peter Fraser, as Sheriff of the Island of Van Diemen's Land. Mr Fraser was a son of the late minister of Kirkhill, and had been four years in the Colonial Office.

Ibid.—The Rev. Mr Campbell, minister of the East Church, Inverness, had been presented to the parish of Tarbat. He also received a unanimous call.

September 12 and 19.—These issues contain notices of the death and funeral of Alexander William Chisholm of Chisholm, late member for the county of Inverness. He was attacked with severe illness on 1st August, in the Caledonian Hotel, Inverness, and died there on 8th September, aged twenty-eight. Chisholm's father died in 1817, and in addition to his widow appointed as tutors and guardians to his son, Charles Grant, afterwards Lord Glenelg, Sir John Peter Grant of Rothiemurchus, and other gentlemen. Young Chisholm was educated at Eton and Cambridge. He never seems to have enjoyed robust health, but his speeches display an active mind. He is described in the contemporary notice as "a young gentleman of considerable attainments

and of amicable disposition." The funeral, which took place on the 18th inst., was attended by a large gathering from the county, and by the Provost and Magistrates of Inverness. Mr Macdonell of Glengarry, cousin of the deceased, was present as chief mourner. Chisholm's father was buried in the Priory of Beaulieu, but the remains of the young Chief were laid, by his own request, in the beautiful spot, near Erchless Castle, where some of his ancestors had been interred. The funeral was supposed to be the largest that had been witnessed in the North for many years. The deceased was succeeded by his brother, Captain Duncan Chisholm of the Guards, an accomplished officer, who had distinguished himself at College, and who was then with his regiment in Canada.

September 26.—On the previous Friday Mr Thomas Mackenzie of Applecross, M.P. for Ross-shire, was entertained to dinner at Tain. The chair was taken by Mr Ross of Cromarty, who was then Provost of Tain. The dinner was held in the Court-House, which was ornamented with deers' heads, shot by Mr Horatio Ross of Rossie, in Hungary, and said to be the largest in Europe. The gathering took the form of a Conservative demonstration.

Ibid.—A curious case came before the Circuit Court. A shopkeeper in Inverness was accused of assaulting his brother. The brother was called as a witness, but it was objected that he was an outlaw. Proof of outlawry was given, and the public prosecutor abandoned the case. Later in the day the discredited witness attacked the man who had given proof of his outlawry. The assailant was apprehended and fined in the Police Court.

October 3.—The Northern Meeting, which was held the previous week, is described as one of the most successful and spirited for many years. The Duke of Richmond was present, and was appointed patron of the Meeting in succession to the late Duke of Gordon. Thus, it is stated, the old tie which existed between Gordon Castle and the Highland capital was renewed. Dinners as well as balls were held in the Meeting Rooms. Games were held at the Longman.

Ibid.—There was an acceleration of mails to the

extent of about eight hours. The South mail from Perth arrived at half-past two in the morning, instead of half-past ten, and left for the North at three in the morning. Letters were delivered in Inverness before breakfast. The mail for Perth was despatched at ten o'clock in the evening.

October 10.—The young Duchess of Buccleuch had a narrow escape the previous week on Ben-Nevis. The Duke had been deer-stalking in Badenoch, and the Duchess was staying at Corpach Inn. With a young relative and a guide her Grace set out one fine day to ascend Ben-Nevis. They reached the summit, but soon afterwards fog came on and the guide became bewildered. Their delay in returning excited alarm, and the inhabitants of Fort-William were mustering for rescue, when Mr John Macdonald, proprietor of the Ben-Nevis Distillery, mounted his horse, and, taking with him a handbell, cantered out into the dark night. "The sound of the bell caught the ear of the wanderers, and the Duchess and her noble relative were, by his ingenious device, rescued from their dangerous situation. Mr Macdonald's plaid being converted into a temporary pack-saddle, the noble lady was conveyed, in an almost exhausted state, to Fort-William, where 'tired nature's sweet restorer' effaced all traces of her toil."

Ibid.—A Harvest Home in Nairn (a gathering carried on for many years) and an Agricultural Show in Lochaber are reported in this issue. There is also a notice of "The Mountain Minstrel," by Evan M'Coll.

October 17.—At a meeting of Commissioners at Elgin, it was agreed to erect new jails in Elgin and Forres.

October 24.—The resignation of Lord Durham as Governor-General of Canada is announced. He was "stung to the quick by the contumelies thrown upon him by Lord Brougham and the Conservative peers, and the cold neglect with which his claims were treated by his friends of the Ministry."

Ibid.—A dispatch is published announcing the death of Sir Robert Grant, Governor of Bombay, son of the late Charles Grant, and brother of Lord Glenelg. The editor mentions that when Grant was at Cambridge, Robert Hall was preaching there, and the young student was one of his most constant

hearers and devoted admirers. Wilberforce induced him to enter Parliament. "He was successively representative for the Inverness District of Burghs, Norwich and Finsbury. In the House of Commons he did not speak often, but always with eloquence and effect, and no member was listened to with more attention—a result produced equally by the intrinsic value of his speeches and by the moral dignity of his character."

October 31.—There is an interesting article from the editor's pen on a visit to the land of Burns.

November 7.—There were rejoicings at Rosehaugh and other places in Ross-shire on the marriage of Mr Mackenzie, yr. of Scatwell, to Lady Anne Fitzwilliam.

November 14.—Mr John Smith, A.M., parochial schoolmaster of Ardersier, was entertained to a public dinner, and presented with a gold medal, voted by the Celtic Society, for his long and meritorious services as a teacher.

Ibid.—"Died, at 9 Manor Place, Edinburgh, on the 7th inst., in the 84th year of her age, Mrs Anne Grant, late of Laggan, widow of the Rev. James Grant of Laggan, in the county of Inverness." A memoir of Mrs Grant appears in a subsequent issue.

November 21.—Extracts are given from the report of a public meeting held in Bombay to perpetuate the memory of the late Governor, Sir Robert Grant. It was stated that Sir Robert had been mainly instrumental in establishing the Chamber of Commerce, in forwarding steam communication, in constructing roads, in lessening public burdens, and in ameliorating the condition of the natives.

Ibid.—Letters and announcements in connection with the Caledonian Banking Company had appeared in several issues. A paragraph on this date says—"Our readers will be glad to observe that this bank has now been fairly established, and the numerous and respectable appearance of shareholders at the meeting augurs well for its future success. It is most pleasing to observe the unanimity and cordiality which prevailed on every question submitted to the meeting; and everyone joins in saying that a better selection of Extraordinary and Ordinary Directors could not have been made." Mackintosh of Mackintosh presided at the first meeting, and his name heads the list of Extraordinary Directors.

November 28.—A Secession Chapel was in course of erection at Tain. One of the causes that of erection at Tain. One of the causes that the heritors in the Parish Church. The town of Kirkwall had been lighted with gas.

Ibid.—There is a description of the original manuscripts of the Waverley Novels, which the editor has inspected on the premises of Mr Cadell, publisher, Edinburgh.

December 5.—A vessel of 400 tons register was launched at Inverness, built by Mr Cook for Mr Ure, Maryburgh, and to be employed in the timber trade between the Moray Firth and Newcastle. She was named the Stirling Castle.

December 12.—The Canadian insurrection had broken out again, but had been suppressed. There is a note giving an account of the capture of Mr Ellice, M.P., by the rebels, and his subsequent release. A full account of this incident appeared recently in "Chambers's Journal," from a diary kept by Mr Ellice's sister-in-law, who still survives (1904).

Ibid.—Mr Alexander Gray, accountant, Glasgow, was appointed manager of the Caledonian Bank. A sum of £967 had been subscribed for a new harbour at Nairn, and an appeal was made for more funds. The marriage of Brodie of Brodie to Miss Baillie, daughter of Colonel Hugh Baillie of Tarradale, was celebrated with rejoicings on the estates.

December 19.—At a meeting in the Town Hall it was resolved to establish a Savings Bank in Inverness. There was also a proposal on foot for the formation of an Inverness Farmer Society. A Society existed in the earlier part of the century, but had expired.

Ibid.—The Town Council settled a long-standing dispute as to the appropriation of Dr Andrew Bell's educational endowment. One plan was to devote the money exclusively to the erection and maintenance of one large seminary; another was to endow several subordinate schools along with a central institution. The second scheme was carried by 15 votes to 4. "Accordingly, a central institution will be erected in Farraline Park; the infant school at the top of Castle Street will be purchased by the trustees; a district school will be erected in Tomnahurich Street, and another school on the Maggot; these will be in addition to the school in the Merkinch already supported by the trustees."

Ibid.—On the 17th of September a ship called the *Asia* sailed from Cromarty with about 280 emigrants, from the counties of Ross and Inverness, for New South Wales. On getting to sea she proved very leaky, and put into Plymouth, where she was declared unfit for the voyage. The food provided for the passengers was also poor and insufficient. The case was the subject of inquiry.

December 26.—It is announced that Alexander Milne, of New Orleans, a native of Morayshire, had left 100,000 dollars for the erection of a public school at Fochabers, and a bequest for the poor of the village. By some oversight he named no parties in the will as administrators, and the inhabitants of Fochabers applied to the Court of Session on the subject.

No. XV.

Political affairs were very troubled in 1839. The Canadian question, Irish crime and agitation, the rise of Chartism, the situation in Jamaica, all embarrassed the Whig Government, which had but a small majority, and had incurred the dislike of the Radical wing of the party. The temper of the Jamaica planters had been embittered by the emancipation of the negroes, and the local Assembly entered into conflict with the home Ministry in connection with a Prisons Act. Accordingly a bill was introduced into the House of Commons for the purpose of suspending the Constitution of Jamaica for five years. On the motion for going into Committee the Government had a majority of only five votes, and Lord Melbourne and his colleagues, wearied by the constant strain, tendered their resignation to the Queen. Sir Robert Peel was sent for, and was expected to form a Government, but the Queen insisted on keeping several ladies of her Bedchamber, and this led to a rupture. Lord Melbourne withdrew his resignation and resumed office. Before the crisis occurred, Lord Glenelg had resigned office as Colonial Minister. The Government brought forward a measure for the legislative union of the two Canadas, but it was not carried until the following year. The session, however, had two useful results: "In 1839 the cause of education won its first considerable triumph in England; in 1839 a penny postage was finally adopted." The new postal system came into operation in January 1840.

In 1839 the Scottish Church question, which ended in the Disruption, began to assume an acute form. The members of the Presbytery of Dunkeld were rebuked by the Court of Session for their action in the Lethendy case. The House of Lords gave its decision in the Auchterarder case, declaring the Veto

Act illegal. It was at this time that Hugh Miller wrote the famous letter to Lord Brougham, which led to his appointment as editor of the "Witness," the newspaper established in Edinburgh by the Non-Intrusion party.

From the "Inverness Courier."

1839.

January 2.—Mr Alexander Shepperd, Town-Clerk of Inverness, died the previous week. He had long been a solicitor in Inverness, enjoying an extensive practice.

January 9.—There is an account of the death of Mrs Maclean, wife of the Governor at Cape Coast Castle. The lady is known in literature as L. E. L. (Letitia Elizabeth Landon). She died from taking an overdose from a phial, which was supposed to have been imbibed to relieve spasms.

Ibid.—Fresh efforts were made to suppress begging in Inverness. Funds were to be collected and placed under the management of the clergy and Magistrates.

Ibid.—An extract from the Gardener's Magazine describes the gardens at Dalvey, in Morayshire. Mr Macleod of Dalvey was among the first to introduce into Morayshire the modern improvements of gardening, and his collection contained some of the newest and rarest plants in the district.

January 16.—A terrific hurricane raged over a great part of the kingdom the previous week, destroying building and shipping, rooting up trees, and overturning stage coaches and railroad waggons. The gale, however, was not much felt in the neighbourhood of Inverness. The north mail was upset near Helmsdale, but no one sustained serious injury.

Ibid.—The curious fact is mentioned that William Pitt, Prime Minister, was in the habit of purchasing a great part of his port wine in Inverness. "The old firm of Fraser, Wilson and Co., imported their wines direct from Oporto; and whether they went to greater expense or were too honest to adulterate, their wines were considered to be of the richest and choicest quality. Pitt had been introduced to

our Inverness port at the table of the Duchess of Gordon."

January 30.—Mr Alexander Mactavish, solicitor, was elected Town-Clerk of Inverness. In the same issue there is an account of a trip through Perthshire. The agitation for the repeal of the Corn Laws had begun, and is noticed in this article. In the next issue it was stated that the agitation might be said to comprise the daily food of the London journals.

February 6.—There is a report of a dinner given at Woodside of Doune to Mr P. B. Ainslie, Commissioner for the Earl of Moray; also a report of a dinner and presentation of plate to Mr A. J. Robertson of Inshes, near Inverness. Mr Robertson had made extensive improvements on his property, "which provided food and comforts to numbers of the industrious poor during times of more than ordinary distress and scarcity."

Ibid.—Elizabeth, Duchess-Countess of Sutherland, died in London on the previous Tuesday, in her seventy-fourth year. Her Grace was Countess of Sutherland in her own right, and married the Marquis of Stafford, who was created Duke of Sutherland in 1833.

Ibid.—"There has not been a day in the memory of the oldest man living equal to that of Wednesday last with drift and snow. The roads north, south, east, and west were completely blocked up, so that no communication could be had from any quarter. On Friday there were two south, two north, and one Aberdeen mail due, and on that day the mail bags were taken on horseback. The principal detention on the Highland road is between Pitmain and Dalwhinnie, and the snow in some places is upwards of fifteen feet deep." Next week it is announced that the roads were clear.

February 13.—"The London journals of Saturday contain the unexpected resignation of the amiable and eloquent Lord Glenelg, Secretary for the Colonies." His lordship stated in his place in the Upper House that he had received a communication from the Cabinet involving alterations in the arrangement of offices. He said that this communication was "utterly unforeseen and unexpected by him," and he felt it his duty to resign. There was much speculation on the subject, but little definite information was supplied. The Canadian question had really brought about the severance. Lord Glenelg never again held office.

Ibid.—A report appears on the state of pauperism in the town and parish of Inverness, prepared by a Committee of Heritors, Magistrates, and members of Kirk-Session. Schedules had been returned which set down the number of permanent and occasional poor claiming assistance as 896. Of these 675 were reported as in need of permanent relief, and 111 as in need of occasional assistance, making up 786. The number of persons whose claims were rejected was 110. The amount of funds available for relief was about £600 a year, showing a deficiency of from £1000 to £1500. The Committee was persuaded that the demands of the poor must be met either by a legal assessment, or by voluntary contributions, definitely subscribed, for a term of years in proportion to rental and to means and substance.

Ibid.—The obituary announces the death of Mr James Fraser, at Drummond, in the county of Pictou, Nova Scotia, in the 82nd year of his age. He was one of the heads of families who emigrated in 1804. He called his new home Drummond, "after the loved and cherished residence of his forefathers," on the south bank of Loch-Ness. Another entry records the death of Alexander Fridge, at Baltimore, Maryland, in the 73rd year of his age. He was a native of Elgin, but had spent fifty years of his life in America, and "was a father to every Morayshire man who deserved and desired his assistance in his adopted country."

February 20.—A meeting was held in the Trades Hall, Inverness, which passed resolutions in favour of the repeal of the Corn Laws. Mr William Dallas, merchant, was in the chair, and Mr Macandrew, solicitor, was one of the chief speakers.

February 27.—There is a report of the funeral of the late Duchess-Countess of Sutherland. The interment took place in the family vault of the Cathedral of Dornoch. The remains of the Duchess were conveyed by steamer from London to Aberdeen, and thence by land, in a hearse drawn by six horses, to Dunrobin. The coffin lay in state in the Castle for three days.

Ibid.—A meeting was held on the 15th inst. for the formation of an Inverness Farmer Society. Mackintosh of Mackintosh was present, and moved Mr Davidson of Cantray into the chair, as the latter had taken much trouble in origin-

ating the movement. Mr Thomas Falconer, solicitor, was appointed the first Secretary.

Ibid.—Mr Alexander Gray, who had been appointed manager of the Caledonian Bank, died at Perth while on his way to assume his duties.

March 6.—The Inverness Farmer Society held their first exhibition of grain on the 1st inst. "The exhibition," it is stated, "was highly creditable to our agricultural friends, especially considering the late untoward season; and if the same spirit is evinced hereafter, the formation of the Society will form a new era in the annals of the farmer in this part of the country." The first prize went to Mrs Fraser of Fingask for potato oats, and the second to Mr Davidson of Cantray for Hopeton oats. At the dinner a suggestion was made for the establishment of a market for milk cows. Sites having been spoken of, one of the members said he had a great aversion to town dues, and he thought ground at Inshes would be suitable. The subject was reserved for further consideration. The same issue records a ploughing match, held at Midcoul, by the Petty and Ardersier Farmer Society. In subsequent issues there are reports of shows or ploughing matches held by the Black Isle Society, the Nairn Society, and other local Associations.

Ibid.—"On Monday last the workmen engaged in the erection of the new inn, High Street, adjoining the British Linen Company's banking office, found part of a deer's horn, 36 inches in length, about ten feet below the surface of the street. Part of the horn was covered with sea-shells, the debris of some flood in remote antiquity."

Ibid.—The issue contains an address issued by Bishop Macdonell to the Irish Catholics of Upper Canada. It condemns the recent disaffection in Canada, and commends the loyalty and good conduct of the Bishop's people.

March 13.—A Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to consider the subject of the improvement and completion of the Caledonian Canal. A valuable report had been submitted by an engineer, Mr Walker, who was convinced that an extensive plan of repair and improvement was necessary to give the undertaking a fair chance, and carry out the original design of Mr Telford.

Ibid.—The Postmaster-General was pleased to

direct the establishment of a daily penny post to Cawdor, under the charge of Mr John Macgillivray, baker there. The estate of Barra was exposed to sale at the upset price of £36,000, and knocked down to Mr James Menzies at £42,050. A public meeting at Cromarty condemned the Corn Laws.

March 20.—The heritors and Commissioners of Supply of the county of Inverness met to consider the state of the Corn Laws. Sheriff Tytler moved a resolution in favour of the existing system. Lord Lovat moved an amendment to the effect that the uncertainty caused by the present system was injurious to the welfare of the country, and praying the Legislature to take the subject into their most careful consideration. Sheriff Tytler's motion was carried by 23 to 4.

March 27.—Mr Villiers submitted a motion in the House of Commons for a Committee to consider the Corn Laws. The question was debated for five nights. In the end the motion was defeated by 342 votes to 195—majority, 147.

April 3.—It was proposed, by a Joint Stock Scheme, to erect a market place in Inverness behind the Episcopal Church (St John's). The ground was for sale, and immediate entry could be obtained.

Ibid.—On Wednesday, 20th March, the shock of an earthquake was distinctly felt in the mountainous tract of country extending from Fort-Augustus to Kingussie and Laggan, in Badenoch. The shock occurred between two and three o'clock in the morning. It does not seem to have extended further east than Fort-Augustus, in the Great Glen.

Ibid.—It is stated that in the Northern Infirmary a remarkable case occurred of the power of speech and motion being restored after a period of nine years. Isabella Mackenzie, aged 32, from the parish of Ferintosh, was admitted to the hospital on 27th October 1838. Her mother stated that she was in the habitual enjoyment of robust health until nine years before, when she was seized with a severe attack of scarlet fever, and never recovered from its effects. The power of speech was entirely lost, and during the whole period she was confined to bed. At the Infirmary the utmost attention was paid to improve her general health, and in three months she was able, with

assistance, to walk across the ward. Powerful remedies were then applied to bring back her faculty of speech, but for a time without effect. "Electricity was employed for about a week, and during that time several sparks were taken from the tongue, till the patient began to complain by signs of a burning sensation in the throat. This was followed in the course of a few days by an imperfect attempt at speech. Her improvement is now steadily progressing, and she is able to carry on a conversation."

Ibid.—A letter from Skye reports a case of second sight. A man named William Macleod, a gamekeeper from Raasay, had visited Portree, and on his way back had disappeared. "After an interval of eight days, a man from Portree came forward and stated that fourteen years ago, while he was herding cattle in the daylight, he had a vision of a man falling over a certain rock (which he described), dressed in light clothes, and resembling in his general appearance the individual who was missing. It was agreed to visit the spot, and accordingly a boat was procured, and the 'gifted seer' proceeded with a party of men in the direction of the rock by the seaside. At the precise spot the body of the unfortunate gamekeeper was discovered. It is supposed that after he had left Portree, he had gone on his journey as far as the cairn opposite Raasay, and that, mistaking his way at this point (for the evening was dark and stormy), he had fallen over a rock, and thus met with his death." The editor expresses the hope that the remains of the deceased and the circumstances of his death had been examined by the proper authorities.

April 17.—The Nairnshire Bible Society held its twenty-fifth annual meeting. The funds amounted to about £40, being £10 more than the previous year. Since its commencement in 1840 the Society had been enabled to devote about £1030 to the circulation of the Scriptures at home and abroad.

April 24.—John Galt, author of "Annals of the Parish," &c., died on April 9th at Greenock. The Rev. William Leslie, minister of the united parishes of St Andrews and Lhanbryde, Morayshire, died on the 13th inst. He was in the 92nd year of his age and 66th of his ministry. A tribute is paid to Mr Leslie's

hospitality and kindness, and it is stated that he retained his cheerfulness, benevolence, and vivacity to the last.

May 1.—The Marnoch Church case was discussed at the Synod of Moray on a complaint against a sentence of the Presbytery of Strathbogie sisting proceedings in the settlement. After considerable discussion, it was resolved, by 24 votes to 9, to refer the case to the General Assembly.

May 8.—The judgment of the House of Lords is given in the Auchterarder case. By this decision the Veto Act passed by the Church of Scotland was finally declared to be illegal. Lord Brougham, who delivered the leading judgment, spoke for three hours.

Ibid.—Mr Matthew Adam, rector of the Inverness Royal Academy, resigned office on the directors agreeing to grant him a retiring allowance of £60 per annum. [At this point several numbers are missing from the file, a most unusual occurrence.]

June 12.—The Presbytery of Inverness moderated in a call to the Rev. David Sutherland, preacher of the Gospel, to be minister of the East Church. At the same meeting a discussion arose as to the style of the new church on the west side of the river. The minutes of a previous meeting bore that the Presbytery had appointed this church to be called "the First Church of Inverness." Dr Rose objected, and moved that the words be expunged from the minutes. Rev. Mr Clark considered the motion unconstitutional, and moved its rejection. Mr Fraser, Dores, proposed as a third motion that the matter be delayed, and submitted to the decision of the Kirk-Session, and this motion was carried. Dr Rose dissented, and appealed to the Synod.

June 19.—A monster petition from the Chartists, signed by 1,280,000 persons, was presented to the House of Commons. It required five men to lift it, and in point of form it resembled "a cylinder of parchment about the diameter of a coach-wheel, and was literally rolled into the House." The petition prayed for universal suffrage, vote by ballot, annual Parliaments, the abolition of the property qualification of members, and the payment of members.

Ibid.—There is a report of the proceedings in the Court of Session when the members of the Presbytery of Dunkeld appeared at the bar of

the Court of Session, and were rebuked for breach of interdict. This is known in Church history as the Lethendy case.

June 26.—The progress of railways in England and Scotland had recently caused a great demand for firwood in the North of Scotland. "The sound of the axe and the sawmill are heard in the loneliest and most remote parts of the Highlands. We have heard of one proprietor selling his firwood for £10,000, and another for £5300. Within the last eight or ten years a vast number of sales of this kind have been effected, ranging from eight or ten thousand to as many hundreds each. A considerable amount of shipping is engaged in this trade; and the vessels that carry out the timber in the shape of railroad-sleepers, pit-props, &c., generally return with cargoes of coal, lime, and other commodities. The number of men employed in felling the trees, sawing them up and exporting them, is also a source of great advantage to the country."

July 3.—There is a long notice of the Memoir of William Forsyth of Cromarty, by Hugh Miller, printed for private circulation. The notice closes as follows:—"Mr Miller, like the subject of his Memoir, seems to have selected Cromarty as the chosen scene of his exertions; it has been well worked up by both; but the author has the advantage of the merchant, as his stores are more readily diffused over the kingdom where, we have no doubt, they will be found after many days, and be long prized as faithful and delightful pictures of Scottish Society and manners."

July 10.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer brought forward his Budget on the previous Friday. Its one important feature was the proposal to establish penny postage. Petitions on the subject had been pouring in to Parliament from all parts of the country. Another piece of news was the report of a serious riot at Birmingham, arising from a conflict between the Chartists and the police.

Ibid.—"This day is published, price threepence, Letter to Lord Brougham, on the opinions expressed by his lordship in the Auchterarder case. By Hugh Miller, banker, Cromarty. John Johnstone, Edinburgh."

July 17.—The annual Sheep and Wool Fair was held the previous week. A scarcity of sheep had arisen in consequence of rot in parts of

England and Scotland. Accordingly, Cheviot widders sold at an advance of from 1s to 2s 6d over the prices of 1838; but there was a drop in the price of ewes owing to the losses sustained by last year's purchasers, and the exertions made by rearers of stock in the South to increase and improve their flocks. In wool there was a decline of from 10 to 15 per cent., but the rates were still considered fair and remunerative. Figures were quoted as follows:—Cheviot widders, 23s to 32s; ewes, 14s to 19s; lambs, 10s to 13s. Cross widders, 20s to 25s; ewes, 12s to 16s; lambs, 9s to 11s 6d. Blackfaced widders, 15s to 22s; ewes, 10s to 12s; lambs, 7s to 8s 3d. Cheviot wool, laid, washed, 18s to 20s; unwashed, 14s to 16s. Cross, washed, 12s to 13s; unwashed, 10s to 11s. Blackfaced, laid, 8s to 9s; white, 10s 6d to 12s. The market was well attended. Sir Charles Gordon, Secretary of the Highland and Agriculture Society, was present, to make arrangements for a show to be held at Inverness in October. At one of the ordinaries, The Mackintosh proposed the health of Colonel Mackintosh of Farr, who had just returned to his native country from India, after an absence of thirty years. In acknowledging the compliment, Colonel Mackintosh dwelt on the great changes which had taken place in the North during the long period of his absence, the improvements in planting and cultivating the soil, the introduction of steam navigation, the formation of roads, and the general advance made in the arts of civilisation. Another visitor was Mr M'Diarmid, the editor of the "Dumfries Courier," who held a high standing in the provincial press, and who delivered a graphic speech on the happiness of rural life.

Ibid.—An action was brought before the Sheriff-Substitute of the eastern Division of Ross-shire by the Kirk-Session of Edderton against a pensioner there for payment of the penalty of ten pounds Scots, alleged to be due by him for violating the Act of 1664, regarding Church discipline. "The demand was resisted—first, because the Treasurer of the Kirk-Session had no right to pursue for the penalty without the Procurator-Fiscal's concurrence, particularly as one-half of the amount was ordered to be applied for pious uses, and the other half to be divided into two equal parts, between the

informer and constable, for bringing the accused to justice; and secondly, because the various Acts of Parliament, imposing penalties in the shape of Church discipline, were in desuetude, and could not be enforced in any Court of law. The Sheriff-Substitute, after taking time to consider the case, was of opinion that both objections were well founded; indeed, he thought that if the Act of Parliament had been in observance, it was the duty of the Justices of Peace to enforce it, and not the Sheriff, who, he conceived, had no jurisdiction to take cognisance of the offence. It was, however, quite clear that the defender's objections were irresistible, and he therefore assoilzied him from the complaint, and dismissed the action."

Ibid.—Died, at the Manse of Daviot, on the 1st inst., the Rev. James Macphail, at the age of 73. His pastorate extended over thirty-seven years, and he was held in high esteem.

Ibid.—A movement was set on foot for the establishment of two public markets for the sale of cattle and sheep in September and October, at Spean-Bridge, near Fort-William. The reasons assigned were the grievance of tolls and the damage to stock arising from the long drive from the North of Scotland to Falkirk Market, the exorbitant charges made by farmers in the neighbourhood of the market stance, the heavy customs exacted, and the loss and expense on the stance. It was estimated that from 60,000 to 70,000 sheep were shown at Falkirk at each of the September and October Trysts, and that about 50,000 of these came from the Highlands and Islands, in the proportions of 20,000 to 30,000 by each of the western and eastern roads. The subject had been discussed at the Lochaber Agricultural Society, and the Marquis of Huntly had offered the site at Spean-Bridge. The first name on the committee to promote the scheme was that of John Cameron, Corrychoilie, then one of the largest sheep farmers in the Highlands.

July 24.—A disturbance had occurred in the island of Harris. The proprietor, contemplating certain improvements on an extensive scale, had given notice to a number of the cottars, about fifty families, to remove. He is said to have offered the people a sum of £11 each, and made arrangements for their

emigration. To these terms they are also said to have consented, but when the parties went to complete the arrangements the islanders refused to comply, and showed a spirit of determined resistance. The officers employed to carry the ejectments into effect were deforced, and it was found impossible to proceed without additional assistance. In response to an application, a detachment of the 78th Highlanders was sent from Glasgow, proceeding by way of Oban and Portree. They were accompanied to the island by the Sheriff of the county and other officials.

Ibid.—The death is announced of Mr Robert Wilson, tenant of the Caledonian Hotel, Inverness. It is stated that he had been known for the last fourteen years as the best inn-keeper in the North of Scotland. During the summer and autumn months his hotel was frequented by tourists and sportsmen from all parts of Scotland.

Ibid.—A curious case in Cromarty is briefly noticed, and forms the subject of communications in subsequent issues. At a public concert in Cromarty, held on the Queen's birthday, the National Anthem was sung, and all the audience stood up, with the exception of the chief officer of the Coastguard Station. This led to an altercation with one of the Magistrates, and an official inquiry. The officer, it was stated, had merely remained sitting to keep a lady in countenance who had a baby sleeping on her knee! The Magistrate, seeing him, called to him by name, "up or out," hence the commotion. The officer applied for law burrows against the Magistrate, but failed. He was removed to another station.

August 7.—The disturbances in Harris had come to an end. The Sheriff and military went to Borve, where they met with no resistance, and made five arrests. The poverty of Harris is attributed to the hardships that followed from the decay of the kelp trade. That trade had so deteriorated that the proprietor was paying to his poor tenants £2 16s 6d for manufactured kelp, which he could sell with difficulty at £2 10s in Liverpool. Before warning the people off the estate (the number of families is now stated at thirty), the proprietor offered to pass from all the arrears of rent due and to give them a sum of £200. The editor ex-

presses the hope that all such removals will be made slowly and gradually—a few families only each year—unless the Government came forward, with wisely-directed generosity, to supply ample means for emigration.

Ibid.—A Scottish Prisons Bill, which had long been under way, passed through Parliament.

August 14.—Some warm language used at a dinner at Forres showed the strained relations between Church and dissent at this time. Sir William Gordon-Cumming, who was in the chair, expressed the hope that these unhappy differences were passing away. "He trusted the time would come when there would be no such distinctions; when ministers, like members of Parliament, would be elected every seven years; and when Mr Stark (the Secession minister) would have an equal chance of the Parish Church with Mr Grant." These sentiments were cheered, but Mr Grant rose and retorted—"In that case I beg to tell Sir William that his estates will not be worth six months' purchase." Sir William did not see the connection. He thought the charter to his estate would hold good as long as he fulfilled its conditions. "If the rev. gentleman," he added, "for the love of the kirk, would violate his charter, he must abide by the consequences." This was a hit at the controversy on the Veto. Another member of the company backed up the dissenters, and correspondence followed the dinner.

August 28.—The first rumour appears of a probable marriage between Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The Chartist agitation continued, and an occasional delegate appeared in the North of Scotland, but met with small encouragement. A number of Chartists had been apprehended in England, chiefly in Lancashire. No less than a hundred rioters were committed for trial. Three Birmingham rioters had been sentenced to death, but were respited, and their sentences commuted to transportation for life.

Ibid.—"Since our last publication Dr Chalmers has addressed crowded audiences in Dornoch, Cromarty, and Dingwall, on the subject of Church extension. On Sunday last the rev. gentleman preached in the Parish Church of Rosskeen. He is now in Inverness, and will address our townsmen on the same subject on Thursday and Friday next. His addresses

are all of great length, great power, and are marked by extraordinary energy and earnestness." This is an introduction to a fuller report. Dr Chalmers was entertained to a public dinner in Dingwall, and on a subsequent day to a breakfast in Inverness. He was accompanied by the Rev. Mr Buchanan, of Glasgow, and by Mr Maitland Makgill.

Ibid.—There is a notice of Hugh Miller's two pamphlets on the Church question, the letter to Lord Brougham, and "The Whiggism of the Old School." The reviewer bestows high praise on the literary quality of the pamphlets. "Mr Miller is a master of English, and of such English as Dryden or Goldsmith would have written had they lived at the present day." The reviewer does not take the same view of the Veto Act as Miller, but he adds—"Men of all shades of opinion may consult Mr Miller's tracts with pleasure and advantage. We hear that their worthy author is about to remove from Cromarty to conduct a Church newspaper to be established in Edinburgh. He is well qualified for such a task, and his talents—seconded by his high character and integrity—will find a suitable field in the accomplished society of the Scottish metropolis." In the same number there is a notice of a volume of "Sacred Poems" by the late Sir Robert Grant.

September 4.—Parliament was prorogued on the 27th ult. Among the measures which her Majesty mentions with satisfaction is the "reduction of the postage duties." Preliminary steps had still to be taken before the measure could come into effect. The same number gives an account of the great Eglintoun Tournament. Lady Seymour was Queen of Beauty. The festival continued several days, but was greatly marred by heavy rains. Prince Louis Napoleon, afterwards Emperor of the French, was present.

Ibid.—There is a report of Dr Chalmers's address at Inverness, which was delivered to a large audience in the High Church. It is stated that "the subscription here already amounts to £2000—a sum greatly beyond the expectation of any one." Dr Chalmers also visited Forres, and was entertained to a public dinner there. Immediately after the visit of Dr Chalmers, a gentleman from Manchester, Mr A. W. Paulton, visited Inverness, and delivered lectures on the Corn Laws.

Ibid.—The vacancy in the parish of Daviot was beginning to rouse excitement. "As there are only," we are told, "ten or twelve male heads of families, communicants in the parish, a keen canvas and no little speculation have been called forth on the occasion. Lord John Russell has just nominated the Rev. Simon Mackintosh, Inshes, and the Rev. John Fraser, Stratherrick, as candidates for the choice of the qualified parishioners. In making this intimation to the persons concerned, Lord John conveyed an admonition to certain parties who had been instrumental in getting up a petition on behalf of another gentleman. He stated that whilst at all times anxious to consult the wishes of the people in the selection of their clergyman, he could give no encouragement whatever to the canvass of a vacant parish; and having understood that beyond doubt this had been the case in this instance, he had come to the resolution to set aside the petition thus got up, and not to advise her Majesty to appoint the individual on whose behalf it had been forwarded." The text of this communication was afterwards published. The candidate whom Lord John Russell declined to appoint was the Rev. Archibald Cook. Mr Cook then wrote denying indignantly that he had ever canvassed.

September 25.—At the Circuit Court at Inverness a singular case was tried from the parish of Kirkhill. The schoolmaster there was charged with having forced his way to the Communion table without permission, and with having seized the cup and partaken of it against the remonstrances of the ministers and elders. After a long trial the jury found "the panel not guilty of a breach of the peace, and not guilty of profanity; but find him guilty of illegally disturbing the congregation." This was held to be a conviction under a statute of the eleventh Parliament of James Sixth, Chapter 27th, which ordained—"That whatsoever person or persons shall happen hereafter to perturb the order of the kirk, in time of divine service, or to make any tumult, raise any fray, either in kirk or kirkyard, where-through the people then convened shall happen to be disordered, troubled, or dispersed, the same shall be ane point of dittay, and the persons to be convict thereof shall tyne all their movables goods, to be escheit

to our Sovereign Lord for their offence; but [without] prejudice of greater punishment, gif there should happen any greater offence, as slaughter, blood, mutilation, shooting of hag-butties and pistolettes, according to the laws of this realm." The Court accordingly had no discretion, except to declare that the panel's goods were escheat to the Crown; "and the panel, who seemed satisfied at the result, was allowed to leave the bar."

Ibid.—The editor gives an account of a visit to Moyhall, afterwards published in the Highland Notebook.

October 2.—A Select Committee of the House of Commons issued a report recommending extensive improvements on the Caledonian Canal.

Ibid.—The Northern Meeting in the previous week was favoured with fine weather. Pony races were provided at the Longman by subscription. The Duke of Richmond and Lord Saltoun presided at the dinners, which continued to form a feature of the Meeting. Both had served under the Duke of Wellington, and incidents of their careers were recalled. Presents were sent to the purveyor in prospect of the Meeting and the forthcoming banquet of the Highland Society. The Duke of Sutherland sent two fine stags; Mr Ross of Rossie a stag weighing 22 stone; Lord Lovat two fine hinds; Culduthel, partridges; and Mr Boulderson, Brahan Castle, a supply of choice fruit. It is stated that the host of the Caledonian Hotel had obtained a turtle weighing 130 lbs. for the Highland Society dinner.

Ibid.—The difficulty which was arising in the parish of Daviot leads to a short account and description of the parish. The writer says—"Though one of the largest parishes in Scotland, we are assured there are only ten male communicants of the Church in Daviot, in consequence of a schism which began about twenty years ago, on the introduction of a catechist or lay preacher. These religious divisions, though not so warlike as the old feuds, are kept up with equal tenacity." The article closes with the following sentences, which show the progress of improvement, and the hopes that were entertained:—"Those only who can contrast the present state of the Highlands with what it was twelve years ago,

as to the cultivation of the soil, can appreciate how much has been done in planting and in reclaiming waste land—how strong a spirit of emulation is abroad—and how many parishes have become exporting instead of importing districts. Thorough drainage and bone-dust have revolutionised the surface of the earth; and if the whole kingdom were brought under the improved system of tillage, the corn produce of Britain would far exceed the wants of its population."

Ibid.—Badenoch was very gay this season. The Duke and Duchess of Bedford, with their friends, were at their favourite autumn residence, the Doune, and Mr Edward Ellice, **M.P.**, at Invereshie. These two parties made up a purse of fifty guineas, to be given as prizes for athletic sports. The gathering came off at Invereshie. "An immense concourse of persons was present, as the news soon spread over the hills, and the people poured forth to witness the splendid array of Sassenach lords and ladies, and to partake in the amusements of the day. A hogshead of whisky was provided by the generous entertainers, and abundance of bread, beef, and mutton. Tents were erected in the Glen, and as the ladies arrived the pipers announced the events in the liveliest strains of the pibroch. The sports commenced with a foot race up a steep mountain, one of the highest in the Grampians. Seven Highlanders started, the distance back-and forward being better than four miles. The winner of the first prize (which was £3) came in to the pole in the short time of 22 minutes 35 seconds; the successful competitors for the second and third prizes arrived very soon afterwards, keeping side by side the whole way, until within a few seconds of their arrival at the starting place." There were other sports, including pony races by some of the party. A supper and ball followed. Fire-works were let off, and a field piece in the lawn awoke the mountain echoes.

October 5.—This was a special edition, issued to report the great meeting and show of the Highland Society, held on Wednesday and Thursday, 3rd and 4th inst. On Wednesday there was a dinner in the Northern Meeting Rooms, where addresses were given on subjects important to agriculturists. The number

present was 240. Mr Mackintosh of Geddes, Convener of the Society's Committees in the Northern Counties, was in the chair, supported by the Duke of Richmond, Lord Lovat, and other noblemen and gentlemen. The show was held in the Academy Park. The entries numbered 879, "within about twenty of the great Glasgow Exhibition." The stock consisted of Highland, shorthorned, polled, Ayrshire, and cross cattle; also horses and sheep. There were prizes for the best samples of wool, and for roots and seeds. Some implements were exhibited, and mention is made of one medal in this department. The report speaks highly of the quality of the stock. In sheep, it is said, the show of Cheviots was by far the best that had ever been exhibited under the auspices of the Highland Society. "A gentleman from Northumberland states that at their exhibitions in the North of England no such Cheviot wedders had ever been seen." Horses were apparently the poorest part of the show, though it is acknowledged that there was a fair representation of draught mares and fillies. A great pavilion was erected, designed to accommodate a thousand persons. It was fitted up with gas, and was tastefully decorated. A dinner was held here on Thursday evening, presided over by the Duke of Richmond, and attended by about 780 persons. The report of the meetings and of the show extends to nearly twelve columns, and must have been a great effort for the newspaper resources of the time.

October 23.—A meeting of heritors was held to consider a proposal to disjoin the office of first minister of Inverness from the offices of the other two ministers, by allotting to him the new church (the West Church) and a parish attached quoad sacra, with a distinct session. It had been proposed by the Rev. Mr Clark and his friends that the new church should be designated the First Church. The heritors protested against these proposals. They joined, however, in commending the exertions of Mr Clark, to whose efforts the public were indebted for the erection of the building. It is stated that the sum expended on the church up till the Whitsunday previous was £2915, but that the total would amount to £4012. The funds available, a large proportion consisting of private contributions, amounted to

£1864, leaving a deficiency of £2148. The annual feu-duty was £25.

Ibid.—The Duke of Bedford died at the Doune of Rothiemurchus on the 20th inst. He was in the seventy-third year of his age. Death was due to apoplexy. A tribute is paid to the Duke's manly and kindly character, his popular sympathies, and his munificent charities.

Ibid.—The heritors and communicants of the parish of Daviot met to ascertain whether they would prefer Mr Simon Mackintosh or Mr John Fraser, whose names were submitted by the Home Secretary for the vacant charge. The communicants, with one exception, made choice of Mr Mackintosh, and the heritors, also with one exception, concurred.

Ibid.—The Rev. Simon Somerville, minister of the Second Associate congregation of Elgin, died on the 11th inst., in the 72nd year of his age and the 44th of his ministry. He was ordained to the Associate congregation of Barrhead, in Forfarshire, in 1795, but demitted his charge there in 1803, and came to Elgin in 1805. Mr Somerville is described as an honourable and pious man, naturally cheerful and hospitable, and much esteemed.

October 30.—The London papers of Tuesday, the 22nd inst., announced the death of Lord Brougham as having arisen from the overturning of his carriage near Brougham Hall, in Westmoreland. The report was unfounded. "The melancholy impression lasted only one day." It appears that Lord Brougham was driving in a carriage which was upset, but he was not seriously injured. The incident excited comments of many kinds.

Ibid.—Shortly after ten o'clock on the evening of Wednesday, 23rd inst., an earthquake shock was felt in the town of Inverness, and over the greater part of Scotland to the East and South. It "was announced by a rumbling noise like that of a carriage, and in two or three seconds a smart shock, like a thunder-clap, succeeded." The weather during the day was thick and foggy, with a constant drizzling rain and slight easterly winds. The temperature ranged from 47 deg. to 50 deg. for several days. The barometer rose from 29.870 inches at three o'clock on the afternoon of Wednesday to 29.914, the height at the

time of the shock; it continued to rise for the next two days, when it reached 30.578. The earthquake caused no serious consequences. Some persons believed that a slight shock was perceptible on Thursday evening.

Ibid.—The Earl of Moray paid a visit to his Northern property after an absence of seventeen years. The Forres Agricultural Society entertained him to a public dinner. His lordship also entertained his tenantry to dinner in Randolph's Hall in Darnaway Castle. The scene in this fine old hall is described as peculiarly impressive—"One of the most impressive we have ever witnessed."

Ibid.—The educational arrangements of Inverness, arising from the scheme for the administration of Dr Bell's bequest, caused much local discussion. There are long memoranda on the subject in this issue.

November 6.—It is announced that the "Courier" is now printed with a patent machine, possessing a locomotive printing cylinder, manufactured by Carr & Smith, Belper, Derbyshire. "It is calculated to throw off from 20 to 30 impressions per minute. This is the first attempt to introduce printing machinery north of Aberdeen, and will, we trust, be considered an earnest of our anxious desire to serve the public as efficiently and faithfully as lies in our power."

November 13.—The Chartists broke out into violence, attempting, under John Frost, to take possession of Newport, in South Wales. The misguided men were driven off by the military. They left twenty-two dead, while a large number were severely wounded.

Ibid.—A landed proprietor had a book printed at the "Courier" Office, which he entitled "Hints for the use of Highland Tenants and Cottagers." The Hints were given in alternate pages of English and Gaelic, and the volume was illustrated by engravings, showing models of houses, barns, and implements. Copies of the book are still occasionally to be found, and it seems to have served a useful purpose.

Ibid.—Letters were received in Inverness announcing the death of Mr John Anderson, W.S., who went out some years previously as a Magistrate to the island of St Vincent. The news excited much regret. The deceased was an accomplished man, author of the "History

of the House of Fraser," and of numerous papers on antiquarian subjects. He was a brother of Messrs George and Peter Anderson, authors of the Guide to the Highlands.

Ibid.—Mr Alexander Cumming was elected Provost of Inverness, and Mr John Wilson, builder, Provost of Nairn. There was "an extraordinary reaction in the burgh of Nairn in favour of Conservatism." The new Provost was entertained to a public dinner. Mr William Laing was elected Provost of Forres.

November 20.—The estate of Achany, in Sutherland, was lately purchased by James Matheson, Esq. of Canton, in China, representative of a family who had long occupied Shinness. The residents on the estate celebrated the purchase with bonfires.

November 27.—The intended marriage of the Queen with Prince Albert was the most important incident of domestic news. The Duke of Wellington had suffered from an attack of illness, but was recovering. There were further developments of the Marnoch Church case.

December 11.—The town of Tain was now lighted with gas. Companies had also been formed to supply gas to Dingwall and Wick.

December 18.—The Commission of the Church of Scotland suspended seven clergymen in Strathbogie for disregarding the injunctions of the Assembly in connection with the Marnoch case.

December 25.—Provost Cumming presided at a public meeting at which it was resolved to establish a National Security Savings Bank for the town and county of Inverness.

Ibid.—A report of the Daviot Church case extends to three and a-half columns. The Presbytery of Inverness met in the Parish Church of Daviot for the purpose of moderating in a call to the Rev. Simon Mackintosh. The church was crowded. The presentee had obtained an interdict from the Supreme Court, prohibiting the communicants from tendering dissents against the settlement under the Veto Act. The communicants approached the Presbytery with a petition, which, after a discussion and a division, was read. It stated that the communicants were ten in number, three of whom supported Mr Mackintosh, while the remaining seven had resolved, before the interdict was served, to dissent from his

settlement; that the great majority of the parish were also opposed to him, as appeared from a writing, signed by 111 heads of families, produced with the petition, which would have been signed by many more had time permitted; and that the heritors who supported Mr Mackintosh were mostly non-resident, or of a different religious persuasion. The petitioners did not wish to violate the injunction of the Supreme Court, but they suggested that the meeting of Presbytery should be adjourned. After a long discussion, the Presbytery agreed, without a vote, to refer the case to the Assembly. Mr A. Mac-tavish, solicitor, appeared for the presentee, and Mr Charles Stewart for the petitioners.

No. XVI.

In February 1840 Queen Victoria was married to Prince Albert. The young sovereign had not at this time gained the hearts of the people as she afterwards did, and to her chagrin the allowance to her husband was cut down, by a combination of Conservatives and Radicals, to £30,000 a year. In June the youth Oxford attempted to shoot the Queen as she was driving out with the Prince from Buckingham Palace. The outrage roused the loyalty of the people, calling forth a unanimous expression of horror and indignation from all ranks of society.

The troubles of the Whig Government multiplied during the session. They managed, however, to pass the bill for Irish municipal reform. The House came into conflict with a firm named Stockdale, which brought an action against Hansard for publishing what they considered a libel in a Parliamentary paper. The firm succeeded in the Law Courts, but the House considered their conduct a breach of privilege, and committed the persons immediately concerned to custody. Heated discussions took place, and the conflict was finally ended by the passing of an Act which protected the publication of Parliamentary papers. In foreign affairs, Palmerston took a strong line in supporting the integrity of the Ottoman Empire against Mehemet Ali, and came near to embroiling the country with France. A quarrel also occurred with China over the opium question, leading to war.

The system of penny postage was brought into operation in January, though not without misgivings on the part of the Government. At first the change caused a loss to the revenue, but in a few years it was made up. The Chartist leaders Frost and his associates were convicted of high treason, but their sentence was commuted to transportation for life. In Scotland there was growing excitement over the Church question.

From the "Inverness Courier."

1840.

January 1.—By Treasury minute, dated December 26, January 10th was fixed as the date for bringing the penny-postage rate into operation.

Ibid.—Articles and letters appear on the Church question. Rev. Mr Cunningham and Rev. Mr Candlish addressed a large meeting in the Inverness Gaelic Church. A correspondent, speaking of the Daviot case, says that for many years the parish, with a large proportion of two adjacent ones, had been practically severed by religious dissensions from communion with the Church. It was no uncommon thing for the late pastor to preach to a handful on one side of the stream, while the multitude flocked to the tent of an itinerant preacher on the other side. When the vacancy occurred the people fixed their minds on one man (Rev. Mr Cook, Inverness), as best adapted by his special gifts to edify them. "But the efforts," says the correspondent, "to procure his services overshot the mark, and were justly deemed by Government a sufficient reason for rejecting an application in his favour, and striking his name from the list of candidates." It does not seem to have occurred, either to the minister or to the writer, that the best way to put an end to the schism was to give the people the candidate of their choice.

Ibid.—It is stated that the springs and wells which watered the Leys had been dried up since the date of the recent earthquake. This was on the south side of the valley. On the opposite side, at the farm of Kinmylies, the pumps failed to raise any water, and a supply had to be obtained from the river.

January 8.—At a public meeting held in the High Church, it was agreed by a majority to approve of a legal assessment for the support of the poor in the parish of Inverness. The Town Council and Kirk-Session had previously sanctioned the proposal.

Ibid.—An advertisement announces that a newspaper under the title of "The Witness" was to be published in Edinburgh. It was "designed especially to maintain the cause of Protestantism and of Church Establishments,

and the spiritual rights and privileges of the Church of Scotland." The same issue contains a report of the meeting addressed at Inverness by Rev. Messrs Cunningham and Candlish. No layman could be induced to take the chair, and the Rev. Mr Stewart, Cromarty, agreed to preside. A resolution was passed in favour of the Church claims, and petitions to Parliament were prepared and largely signed. On the opposite side a meeting of heritors and others was held at Nairn, which expressed alarm at the recent proceedings of the General Assembly and its Commission, especially in suspending the Strathbogie ministers.

Ibid.—The local Total Abstinence Society was conducting an active movement. A soiree was held on New-Year's Day in the Northern Meeting Rooms. "The price of admission was 1s 6d, but this was far from being an obstacle in the way of attendance, as above five hundred were present."

January 15.—Hugh Miller, on his appointment as editor of the "Witness," was entertained to a public dinner at Cromarty on the 8th inst., and presented with a breakfast service. Mr George Cameron, Sheriff-Substitute of the eastern district of Ross-shire, was in the chair, and the croupiers were Provost Robert Ross and Mr John Taylor, Sheriff-Clerk. Miller's pamphlets on the Church question had secured him his new appointment, but it is noted at the same time that his geological discoveries had already attracted the attention of men of science at home and abroad. "It was now necessary that he should leave his native town, of which he had long been the poet laureate, the historian, and geologist, and where he lived in universal respect for his private virtues no less than for his talents." Mr Carruthers was present from Inverness, and joined in expressing admiration for his friend. They had been acquainted for eleven years. Miller's Poems had been printed at the "Courier" office, and many communications from his pen, including his Letters on the Herring Fishery, had appeared in the columns of the paper. The day after the dinner Miller left Cromarty for Edinburgh, carrying with him the best wishes of his friends and townsmen.

Ibid.—The county of Inverness resolved to peti-

tion Parliament to increase the salaries of Scottish Sheriff-Substitutes. "The number of these functionaries is forty-nine. Their salaries vary from £150 to £400, making the average about £263. The sum total thus paid annually for supporting this important branch of the judicial establishment of Scotland is only £13,120."

Ibid.—William Howitt had issued a book entitled "Visits to Remarkable Places," in which the old halls, battlefields, and scenes illustrative of English poetry and history were delineated. This issue quotes a passage which describes Mr Howitt's visit to Kilmorack, in August 1836, during the time of the summer Communion. There was a large open-air gathering in the church-yard. "With the exception that hardly one had a bonnet on, the young women were not much to be distinguished from those of our smartest towns. They all had their hair neatly braided, and adorned with a tall comb of tortoise-shell. Many of them had silk gowns and handsome worked muslin collars, and others were dressed in white. Every one carried on her arm a shawl, often of tartan, ready in case of rain to throw over her head. The married women wore no bonnets, but had caps supported by a sort of inner frame of stiff calico; and smart coloured ribbons, often pink, and as often gay tartan, showing through the cap. The old women, again, had large mob-caps. . . . Many of them came thus unbonneted perhaps from a distance of seven or eight miles. . . . Sturdy shepherds with sunburnt features and their plaids wrapped round them, and gay fellows in full Highland costume, mingled with the throng in a more English garb. . . . A more serious and decorous congregation never was seen."

January 22.—A public meeting was held in the Town Hall to express disapproval of the action of the General Assembly in connection with the Veto Act. The resolutions bore that the Church should proceed "not by agitation in exciting the passions and prejudices of the multitude, but by calm and respectful application to the Legislature." Provost Cumming was in the chair. "Several gentlemen entertaining different opinions on this subject were present, but no attempt was made at opposi-

tion, nor was any mark of disapprobation evinced."

Ibid.—A paragraph states that the Chief of Glengarry was preparing to embark for Australia with his family and dependents. "He is constructing timber houses and furnishing himself with various agricultural implements and other conveniences for residence in that distant region. Mr Macdonell was compelled some time since to dispose of most of the property, which was heavily mortgaged and encumbered by his father, the late well-known Glengarry, whose character, in its more favourable lights, was drawn by Sir Walter Scott in his hero, Fergus M'Ivor. We cannot regard this expatriation of the head of an old Highland family, with its clan associations, its pipe music, and its feudal associations, without some regret and emotion. These Celtic strains and legends will sound strange in the new world of the wanderers, so far removed from their native Loch-Oich, the Rock of the Raven, and the other magnificent scenery of the Glengarry mountains."

Ibid.—There is notice of a book entitled "The Black Kalendar of Aberdeen," which was designed to give an account of the most remarkable trials that had come before the criminal courts in that city from the period of the suppression of the rising of 1745. Many of these were from Inverness. It appears that on the suppression of the insurrection, a number of persons of desperate character who had been engaged in it commenced a series of robberies and outrages. The fate of one of the men is thus recorded—"In the month of July 1755, John Macmillan, or Breack Macevan Vaan, a stout Jacobite and renowned thief, was executed at Inverness. There were suspicions against this man that he had been accessory to a murder for which his brother had been hanged some years before; but he denied this crime at the gallows. He neither prayed for himself nor desired the prayers of others, but called for a glass of whisky, and having got it, held it up above his head and cried out, 'Here is Prince Charles's health, and God send him safe to his own kingdom. I ask you all to witness that I am an innocently murdered man.' He then spent his last breath in abusing all who had a hand in

bringing him to justice, and especially the Sheriff, who, he said, had been a black sight to the names and families of Lochiel and Glengarry. Macmillan's friends having got his body to bury after it was cut down, endeavoured, by bleeding and other means, to restore him to life, but without success." There were numerous trials of Roman Catholics. In April 1759, Neil Macfie was banished for life, by a sentence of the Circuit Court at Inverness, for being "habit and repute a Popish priest."

Ibid.—The death is announced of Principal Baird at the age of 79. He was the warm friend of education in the Highlands.

Ibid.—An extract is given from William Howitt's work (noticed above), describing his visit to the battlefield of Culloden in August 1836. The moor was at the time "one black waste of heath," with exception of the grassy mounds that formed the graves. The road, he says, had been cut across the moor since the battle, right across the scene of action, and through the graves. The north wall of an enclosure, as is well known, screened the right flank of the Highland army. Mr Howitt mentions that "the mouldering remains of that old and shattered wall still stretch across the moor in the very course laid down in the original plans of the battle." The visitor was conducted through the battlefield by a young man named William Mackenzie, whose family occupied a hut in Stable Hollow at the time of the battle, and still lived on the same spot. "It had been called Stable Hollow ever since from a number of the English troopers after the fight putting up their horses in the shed belonging to it, while they went to strip the slain."

January 29.—On the previous Thursday a public meeting was held in Inverness to support the principle of non-intrusion in the Church. The attendance is described as "large and highly respectable," and finding that the Court-House could not contain the numbers who wanted admission, the meeting adjourned to the High Church. Mr Fraser of Abertarff was in the chair. Among the speakers were the Rev. David Sutherland, the Rev. Alexander Clark, and the Rev. Archibald Cook, of Inverness. On the 16th inst. a meeting on the same side was held at Forres, "which

was attended by almost all the respectable people of the place." The meeting was preceded by a sermon from the Rev. Mr Macdonald, Urquhart. Resolutions were adopted declaring for the principle of non-intrusion and the independent jurisdiction of the Church in spiritual matters.

Ibid.—Mr Macaulay was elected one of the representatives of Edinburgh on his appointment as Secretary at War. The Editor publishes extracts from a private letter written by a young student to his father, descriptive of Macaulay's appearance, manner, and oratory. The writer says that his first impressions on seeing the Secretary at War were those of unmingled surprise and disappointment. The hon. member was little and insignificant, restless and uneasy, and by no means intellectual in expression. "But the moment he got up to speak, these feelings were dissipated. From being uneasy and timid, he became calm and self-possessed; and leaning gracefully on the table by his side, he began his speech with the utmost coolness, pronouncing every word slowly and distinctly, and with the most deliberate emphasis. His voice is remarkably clear, rich, and sonorous, and always exquisitely modulated to suit the sentiment he is uttering. As he fired with his subject, his countenance lost its dull and commonplace character, his slender form dilated into prouder dimensions, and his features were simple and natural, yet graceful and expressive. . . . He seemed to me a scholar without pedantry, an orator without sophistry." The writer of this letter, we believe, was Mr Angus B. Reach.

February 5.—There is a long report of a large non-intrusion meeting at Dingwall. The Rev. James Macdonald, of Urray, was in the chair.

February 12.—Mr Macleod of Cadboll, who had been in failing health, announces that he is not again to seek the suffrages of the electors of the Inverness Burghs. This had been expected for a week or two, and the Liberals were now in treaty with Mr James Morrison, merchant, London, to contest the seat in their interest when a vacancy occurred. Mr Morrison was now in Inverness, accompanied by Mr Edward Ellice, M.P.

Ibid.—A meeting was held at Forres to express disapproval of the attitude of the Church on

the veto question. Mr J. M. Grant of Glenmoriston was in the chair, and several county proprietors were present. The general attendance seems to have been limited.

February 19.—This issue gives an account of the marriage of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, celebrated on the 10th inst. There were rejoicings at Inverness and other places.

Ibid.—Mr Morrison and Mr Edward Ellice, jun., held a political meeting in Inverness. Mr Ellice was entertained to a public dinner by his old friends (he had contested the burghs against Major Cumming Bruce). A meeting in support of non-intrusion was held at Tain. There was a religious revival in Nairn which attracted some attention.

February 26.—Mr Macleod of Cadboll had resolved, on account of ill-health, to resign at once his seat for the burghs, instead of waiting for the General Election. Mr Morrison, the Liberal candidate, and his friend Mr Ellice, had taken leave of the electors, and gone as far as Edinburgh before they heard that a writ had been moved for. They immediately retraced their steps. The Conservative candidate was Mr John Fraser, Cromarty House, a native of Inverness. The contest promptly began, "but happily with the prospect of a speedy termination."

March 4.—The candidates for the representation of the Inverness Burghs were nominated on February 26th ult., the ceremony taking place on the Exchange, "where a capacious and showy hustings had been erected." The crowd was very large, and "a few more mischievously disposed, had provided themselves with small shot, which were thrown about to the annoyance of many persons." The Liberal candidate was Mr James Morrison, merchant, London; the Conservative Mr John Fraser, Cromarty House. The polling took place on 3rd March, with the result that Mr Morrison was elected by 353 votes to 308; majority, 45. Forres was still the Conservative burgh of the group, the figures there being 71 for Mr Fraser and 55 for Mr Morrison.

March 11.—Comments and communications appear on the election. Mr Fraser brought charges of bribery, intimidation, and broken pledges, but the editor remarked with good humour that "the whole annals of electioneering can scarcely furnish a single instance of a

defeated candidate, who acknowledged that he had been fairly beaten."

March 18.—The Master of Grant, M.P. for the county of Inverness, died suddenly at Cullen House on the 11th inst., from an affection of the heart. He had come North to make preparations for the funeral of his mother, who died on the 27th ult. The Master was only in his twenty-sixth year, and his death caused deep regret. There was great sympathy for his father, the Hon. Colonel Grant, who had lost both wife and son.

Ibid.—The Presbytery of Inverness had decided that the new church was to be called the West Church; and it is stated that every other matter about which there was any difference of opinion had been amicably settled.

Ibid.—At a meeting of the "legal administrators," a motion was carried settling the principle that the sum required for the support of the poor of the parish of Inverness should be raised, one-half from heritors and proprietors, according to their real rent, and the other half from the inhabitants of the town and parish. This, it was stated, secured occupants from having to pay more than an equal share of assessment.

Ibid.—A paragraph in this issue states that Sir George Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch had purchased from Glengarry the estate of Glenquoich for £32,000. A subsequent paragraph, however, says that the purchase, though made by Sir George, was on behalf of Mr Edward Ellice, junior, M.P., who thus became one of the landed proprietors of the county.

March 25.—Mr Henry J. Baillie, yr. of Tarradale, came forward as candidate for the county of Inverness in the Conservative interest. The Liberals resolved not to contest the seat. "Mr Baillie is son of Colonel Hugh Baillie, member for Honiton, and is connected with a powerful and wealthy family in this neighbourhood. Colonel Baillie is proprietor of the estates of Tarradale and Redcastle, and his brother, James E. Baillie, Esq. of Bristol, is proprietor of Kingussie and Glenelg, in Inverness-shire. Their nephew, Ewan Baillie, Esq. of Dochfour, is also a landed proprietor in this county." The editor adds: "We have heard nothing of the honourable gentleman personally except what is to his honour." On

the 31st inst. Mr Baillie was duly elected without opposition.

Ibid.—Mr Paterson, Sandside, wrote suggesting measures for extirpating foxes, which were numerous and caused great damage among sheep. He said that he had sometimes lost two hundred sheep in one year from their ravages.

Ibid.—There was a trial of strength between Moderates and Non-Intrusionists in the Inverness Town Council in the election of an elder to the General Assembly. The Moderates triumphed by a majority of 12 to 6.

Ibid.—The Quarterly Journal of Agriculture gives an account of a series of improvements in the cultivation of waste land carried out by Mr William Gerrie on the farm of Proncy, county of Sutherland. The reclamations extended to 103½ acres, and the expense was £1504.

April 1.—There is a report of the nomination and election of Mr Henry Baillie as member for the county. The motion was made by Cluny Macpherson, and seconded by Mr Macallister, Talisker, Skye. There was afterwards a dinner in the Caledonian Hotel.

Ibid.—The funeral of the late Master of Grant and his mother took place on the same day. Their remains had been removed to Castle Grant, and were thence conveyed to the family burying-ground at Duthil, followed by a great gathering of friends and tenantry.

Ibid.—There was a rumour at this time that the Caledonian Canal was to be made over by Government to a joint-stock company. It was reported that terms had been prepared and "duly accepted," but the editor expressed doubts on the subject.

Ibid.—A branch of rural improvement was now much canvassed, namely, the drainage of land by tiles. It was stated that in the Northern Counties there was ample scope for this improvement. An agent visited the district to set forth its advantages. "In the manufacture of tiles the patent machinery introduced by the Marquis of Tweeddale has effected a vast change; and though the interest possessed in the trade by Lord Tweeddale has been purchased by a London company, the system is pursued with great spirit and success."

April 8.—"The Duke of Sussex is Earl of Inver-

ness, and Lady Cecilia Underwood is now Duchess of Inverness. The Duke has long been married to Lady Cecilia, though contrary to an existing statute which prevents the Royal Family from marrying any person but a foreign Prince or Princess of a Protestant family." The dignity was conferred by the Queen by letters patent passed under the Great Seal. The Duchess was a daughter of the second Earl of Arran.

Ibid.—The foundation of a new Parish Church at Broadford, Isle of Skye, was laid on the 31st ult., with Masonic honours, by Mr A. D. Mackinnon, yr. of Corry. A branch of the National Security Savings Bank and a Benefit Society, to secure provision for old age and sickness, were now established in Inverness. The movement was extending to other towns.

April 15.—A despatch from Lieut.-Colonel Orchard, commanding a detachment of the army of the Indus, gives an account of the storming of the fort of Peshoot. Two young officers from the Highlands distinguished themselves, Lieutenant William Fraser Tytler, son of Sheriff Fraser Tytler, and Lieutenant Arbuthnot Dallas, son of Dr Dallas, of Inverness. The former showed conspicuous gallantry in bringing powder to blow up a gate, and the latter was particularly active in the commissariat department.

Ibid.—Mr W. Howard had retired from the representation of the county of Sutherland, and Mr David Dundas, of the Inner Temple, was elected in his place. Mr Dundas was a staunch supporter of the Whig Government.

Ibid.—Hon. Colonel Grant of Grant had intimated his intention of retiring, on account of domestic affliction, from the representation of the united counties of Elgin and Nairn, and Major Cumming Bruce of Dunphail came forward as the candidate in the Conservative interest. He was elected without opposition.

Ibid.—Mr Hugh Ross, of Cromarty, Provost of Tain, resigned office in consequence of the election of a non-intrusion Commissioner from that town to the General Assembly. He published a pamphlet giving reasons for his resignation, and discussing the Church question.

Ibid.—There is notice of a book by Miss Catherine Sinclair, of Ulbster, giving an account of a tour through the Highlands in

1839. It was a lively, gossiping volume. The disuse of kelp had produced great misery and destitution in Skye. Miss Sinclair saw many of the people wandering along the shore picking up shell-fish as their sole means of subsistence. In the Long Island Colonel Gordon of Cluny was about to begin the plan of improving the unenclosed commons on a large scale. In every family sons, brothers, or cousins were hurrying off to Australia.

April 22.—There is an article on the condition of the Highlands. Sir Robert Inglis had called attention in the House of Commons to the extreme distress which, he said, prevailed, remarking that in a great part of the country the people had taken a pledge of temperance, confining themselves to one meal a day. The editor said he could hear nothing of this so-called pledge, and there was not at the moment any sudden or unusual crisis of distress. The want of employment, however, was deeply felt, and emigration on a large scale would be a public benefit. The kelp trade was almost universally abandoned, and there were no extensive public works in progress. "The population has, therefore, far outgrown the means of decent subsistence; and thousands of our countrymen live constantly on the very verge of destitution, dependent solely on the potato crop." The Inverness Town Council soon afterwards adopted a petition to Parliament declaring that an extensive and properly organised system of emigration was "imperiously called for."

April 29.—A new rector, Mr Gray, had been appointed to the Inverness Royal Academy. He was previously Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in King's College, Fredericton, New Brunswick, and on his resignation of that post the Council expressed their deep regret at his departure, and their appreciation of his services. The selection of his successor at King's College was left to Mr Gray, in conjunction with an eminent scientific man in this country.

May 6.—An account is given of an effort to introduce the capercailzie on the Breadalbane estates. Mr Fowell Buxton had received a pair from a friend in Sweden, which he kept in Norfolk. They bred, but in the hot weather all died except the cock, which was afterwards accidentally shot. In 1837 Mr

Fowell Buxton was shooting on the Marquis of Breadalbane's moors, and proposed to him to make another trial with the capercaillie. "Mr Buxton sent his gamekeeper all the way to Sweden on purpose to bring the birds to Scotland; and the same friend who had formerly assisted succeeded in procuring sixteen hens and thirteen cocks. Part of them died by the way, but the greater number arrived safe, and were conveyed to Taymouth Castle. Some of the birds were turned out in the autumn of 1837, and part were kept in a house. In the year 1838 a brace only were reared by the keeper, but two fine broods were seen in the woods. In the summer of 1838 sixteen hens were forwarded to Taymouth. In the spring of 1839, instead of attempting to rear any capercaillie, the Marquis's gamekeeper placed the eggs laid by the birds in confinement, in the nests of grey hens, who brought them up in a wild state." The experiment had so far answered fairly well, but the head-keeper did not feel assured of the final result. He says that the Marquis of Breadalbane had abstained from shooting a single capercaillie, and had even forbidden the shooting of any black-game in the neighbourhood of Taymouth, lest a young capercaillie might be killed by mistake; but others had not been so scrupulous. "I mention this," says the keeper, "because I am convinced that these birds cannot generally be established in the North of Scotland unless sportsmen will unite to preserve them for some years to come, and until their numbers are very much increased."

Ibid.—The Daviot case was discussed at length in the Synod of Moray. A motion was unanimously adopted affirming the deliverance of the Presbytery of Inverness to refer the case to the General Assembly.

Ibid.—The Inverness county meeting agreed to petition Parliament for an extensive and systematic plan of emigration, and gave it as their opinion that the surplus, amounting to about £11,000, of the fund collected for the relief of destitution in the Highlands in 1836-7 should be applied in promoting this object.

Ibid.—An antiquarian friend sends a series of extracts illustrating the value of rentals in the North in the beginning of the seventeenth century.

May 13.—The Earl of Aberdeen had introduced his bill on the Church question in the House of Lords. A correspondent in London expresses the conviction that it would never satisfy the non-intrusionists. It did not.

May 20.—The West Church, Inverness, was opened for worship on the previous Sunday. It was announced that the Rev. Alexander Clark would preach there permanently, instead of alternating with the other ministers in the High and Gaelic Churches.

May 27.—Mr John Fraser, formerly Provost of Inverness, was now residing at Sherbrooke, in Lower Canada. He took part in a meeting which was held with the view of providing means for erecting and maintaining a College at Kingston. The object apparently was to educate young men for the Colonial Church. Mr Fraser's speech is reported at length.

June 3.—“We have devoted as much space as we could spare to an account of the proceedings of the General Assembly, which at present nearly absorb the attention of the public.” The debate was on the case of the Strathbogie ministers who had been suspended from office by the Commission.

Ibid.—Mr John Grant had entered on the tenancy of the Caledonian Hotel in succession to the late Mr Wilson, who is described as a “paragon of landlords.”

June 10.—The Daviot case came before the Commission of Assembly. The Commission ordered the Presbytery of Inverness to censure the presentee, Mr Simon Mackintosh, for having obtained an interdict from the Civil Courts against the exercise of the veto, and to report the case to the August meeting.

June 17.—An advertisement dated from Fort-William announces that “the proprietor of some farms, now out of lease, on an estate on the confines of Argyleshire and Inverness-shire, is willing to treat with any gentleman desirous of converting about 20,000 imperial acres into a deer forest.” One of the inducements held out is that, “by adding three or four thousand acres more, these farms might be brought almost into contact with an old established regular forest, which has been for a century or two strictly reserved from sheep and cattle, and is at present well stocked with deer.” Another advertisement

offers on lease the sheep walk of Glenquoich, but states that the deer forest of Glenloyne is excluded from it.

Ibid.—The attempt of the youth Oxford to shoot the Queen is reported. The outrage called forth warm feelings of indignation and loyalty throughout the nation.

June 24.—Improvements in the town are described, among which is mentioned the renovation of old buildings. The footpath known as the Ladies' Walk had been raised, levelled, and embanked. The lower island had been dressed up, and rendered more pleasing by the removal of whins and the formation of walks. The islands are spoken of as "beautiful but neglected."

July 1.—There is a long description of "The Archimedes Steam Ship," which introduced the screw as a propeller. The vessel was engaged in an experimental voyage, and passed through the Caledonian Canal.

Ibid.—An abstract is given of a report on the Caledonian Canal by a Select Committee of the House of Commons. The Committee recommended that the Treasury should be empowered to grant the Canal on lease to a company for a period not exceeding ninety-nine years, without any annual return or rent, on certain conditions. First, the company was to pay the sum of £45,000, to be applied in discharging the debt on the canal. Second, the works specified in Mr Walker's report for improving the canal were to be carried into effect by the company. Third, the company was not to be entitled to pay a dividend of more than ten per cent. until a reserve fund of £50,000 had been set aside; nor a dividend of more than fifteen per cent until the reserve fund reached £100,000. Stipulations were made as to rates.

July 8.—At a county meeting in Inverness it was resolved, under recent Acts of Parliament, to establish an efficient force of constabulary, and to authorise an assessment to be levied for the purposes of the Prisons Act. The meeting also approved, by a majority, of a scheme to carry out "the great coast road to Inverness." This, the report explains, was a new line of road from Castle Stewart to Nairn.

Ibid.—An entertainment was given to Mr Mac-

donald, the tenant of a new hotel, the Union Hotel in High Street. This building is now the Highland Club.

Ibid.—The Government had agreed to increase the salaries of Sheriff-Substitutes, according to a scale varying from £300 to £500 a year.

Ibid.—“The following instance of the imperfect state of communication in the North, about ninety years since, has been communicated to us by a gentleman well versed in local antiquities and general information. When the late Principal Macleod, of King’s College, Aberdeen, was desirous of returning with his mother and family to the island of Skye, he applied for a post-chaise in Aberdeen, but found that the only public carriage in the city, fit for the road, had gone that day to Arbroath. There was another vehicle, but it wanted a wheel, and the only person in Aberdeen that could repair it was laid up with drunkenness. The first coup-cart made in the North was constructed under the superintendence of the late Mr Welsh of Millburn, of ash grown in the island in the River Ness, about the year 1775. This article of daily use (formerly all the carts in the Highlands were made of rungs or small sticks, of the rudest description) was copied by Mr Welsh from a cart used in the transport of prisoners from Perthshire to be tried at our Circuit Court of Justiciary. The first straight furrow in ploughing land in the province of Moray was made by the late Mr Thomas Duncan, farmer, in Alves, about sixty years since. The worthy farmer marked out the straight lines by means of holes placed in the field, and his neighbours, when they saw these preparations for ploughing, thought Mr Duncan’s mind had fairly ‘gone ajea.’ The late minister of Dores, the worthy Mr Mackillican, used to declare that when he went first to College at Aberdeen, about eighty years ago, there was not a yard of stone dyke on the high road from Inverness to Aberdeen, excepting a small patch at Gordon Castle.”

Ibid.—The previous week, the workmen who were engaged on the new buildings in Faraline Park (Bell’s School) dug up nine entire skeletons at a depth of from eighteen to twenty-four inches. The bodies did not seem to have been regularly interred, and they were

probably the remains of men who had fallen in fight.

Ibid.—Mr Hugh Ross of Cromarty was entertained to a public dinner in Tain by members of the Easter Ross Farmer Society and other gentlemen. It is stated that Mr Ross's property had not merely increased but multiplied in value since he came into possession of it; and his exertions, together with their stimulating effect on his neighbours, had completely altered the face of the country. The special object which the dinner was intended to celebrate was the establishment by Mr Ross at Phippsfield of a manufactory for bricks and drain tiles, which was now fully in operation.

Ibid.—A quotation from an Ayr newspaper states that a vast and awfully increasing amount of distress existed in the large towns. From Ireland and from the manufacturing districts of England and Scotland the same tale came. It is stated that in the town of Paisley no less than 1200 workmen were almost wholly unemployed.

July 15.—There is a report of the trial of Oxford for shooting at the Queen. The jury found that the prisoner was "guilty of discharging the contents of two pistols at her Majesty, but whether or not they were loaded with ball we cannot decide, he being at that time labouring under an unsound state of mind." This being an uncertain verdict, the jury were sent back to reconsider it, and returned with a verdict of "guilty, being at the time insane." The prisoner was accordingly ordered to be detained during her Majesty's pleasure.

Ibid.—At the Inverness Wool Fair the price of sheep was good and sales were extensive. The demand for wool was stagnant. The manufacturing districts were labouring under great depression, particularly as regards the woollen trade, which had been affected by the dulness of the American markets, the existence of hostilities with China, and the comparative stagnation of the home demand. Prices are quoted as follows:—Cheviot wedders, 24s to 33s; ewes, 15s to 23s; lambs, 7s to 11s 6d. Blackfaced wedders, 15s to 22s 6d; ewes, 11s to 12s; lambs, 7s to 9s 3d. Cross wedders, 20s to 23s; ewes, 14s; lambs, 7s 6d to 8s;

Leicester cross lambs, 14s. Blackfaced wool is quoted at 14s, and Cheviot white and half-bred, 23s to 26s. It is stated, however, that all the principal clips in the North remained unsold. One gentleman, who sometimes made purchases to the amount of £25,000, went away without buying a single fleece. Purchasers had resolved to take nothing except at a reduction of from 20 to 25 per cent on the previous year, and as farmers believed that the depression was temporary and accidental, they resolved to hold their fleeces.

Ibid.—The first annual meeting of the Caledonian Bank was held on the 7th inst. The profits of the first year, equal to 6 per cent., were carried to reserve. A sum of £100 was voted for a piece of plate to Mr Ross, Berbice, for his valuable services as acting manager, rendered gratuitously from the opening of the Bank.

Ibid.—There is notice of a religious revival in Ross-shire, similar to that which had taken place the previous year at Kilsyth. Deep feelings were manifested at the Communion services at Tarbat, conducted in Gaelic by the Rev. Mr Macdonald of Ferrintosh. At Tain Mr Macdonald preached on Sunday to an open-air gathering of not less than five or six thousand persons. The people were engaged night and day in prayer meetings.

July 22.—Provost Cumming reported that the Inverness jail had been delivered over to the County Prison Board on 1st July. The Clerk produced inventories of warrants, furniture, and books, which had been transferred along with the jail.

Ibid.—At a meeting of the Presbytery of Inverness, Mr Mackintosh, presentee to Daviot, made the declaration enjoined by the General Assembly of his regret for having applied for an interdict against seven communicants of that parish to prevent their exercising the veto. The Presbytery were unanimously of opinion that Mr Mackintosh's statement was perfectly satisfactory.

July 29.—This issue contains a report of a case which excited great interest in the Highlands. Mr Donald Horne of Langwell, W.S., and Mr Hugh Ross of Cromarty, had quarrelled over the settlement of accounts. At the time of the Highland Society Show in Inverness, in

the previous October, Mr Ross sent a challenge to Mr Horne, and because the latter did not accept, he called him a coward. This occurred in the Caledonian Hotel. Mr Horne brought an action of damages, offering at the same time to accept an apology. He said that the dispute occurred in connection with professional matters, and he had acted all through honourably and within his rights. It was after the question between them had been settled that the challenge was sent. He could not fight with Mr Ross, who was an old man of 73, and uncle of his partner in business. The jury found for pursuer, awarding £500 as damages.

Ibid.—The Caledonian Canal Bill passed the House of Commons. It authorised the Lords of the Treasury to grant a lease of the canal rent free, for a period not exceeding 99 years.

August 5.—The following paragraph is quoted from the "John O'Groat Journal":—"The Quebec Packet, Captain Stephen, left Cromarty on the evening of Friday, 17th inst., with goods and passengers. This is the third ship sent out this year to British America by Messrs Sutherland and Maclellan. We understand that the aggregate number of emigrants from the North, shipped this season by vessels chartered by the above-mentioned agents, amounts to no less than 403. Of these 248 are from Caithness, viz.—Ospray, 115; British King, 116; Quebec Packet, 17; total, 248." The same issue gives an account of a scheme for emigration to Central America.

Ibid.—The estates of Glengarry and Inverlochry are advertised for sale.

Ibid.—A meeting of subscribers to the fund for the relief of the destitute in the Highlands and Islands was held in Edinburgh on the previous Friday. The secretary, Mr Craigie, reported that the funds in bank amounted to £3200, of which sum £1300 belonged to the London Committee, transmitted to the Edinburgh Committee on the express understanding that it was to be applied in aid of destitution. After deducting this sum and implementing obligations, the Edinburgh Committee had £1700 at the disposal of subscribers. The Secretary had reason to believe that £4000 was at the command of the Glasgow Committee, who thought that the fund should not be diverted from its original purpose. Various

proposals were submitted for the disposal of the Edinburgh funds, but in the end the meeting unanimously adopted a motion submitted by Mr Mackenzie of Applecross, resolving to act in concert with the Glasgow and London Committees, either for relieving destitution or promoting emigration. In course of the discussion, it was stated that distress continued to prevail owing to a partial failure of the potato crop, and the want of fuel. In consequence of wet weather, not a single peat had yet been got in.

August 12.—This issue gives an account of the attempt made by Prince Louis Napoleon to raise a rebellion at Boulogne.

Ibid.—An American clergyman, the Rev. A. G. Fraser, of New York, had raised a claim to the title and estates of Lovat. The paragraph states that he claimed to be descended from John, a younger brother of Lord Simon of the '45, but the particulars are confused. The famous incident of the stabbing of the piper (probably apocryphal in any case) is attributed to John. The question, however, had been brought before the Court of Session, and a Commission was sitting at Inverness taking the evidence of aged persons and of such documents as might exist.

Ibid.—A vessel called the Nith was taking out emigrants from the Western Highlands to Prince Edward Island. At Uig 400 passengers went on board, and at Tobermory 150. The vessel proceeded to Staffa and Iona, and was going thence to the Isle of Man.

Ibid.—At a county meeting in Inverness a scheme was adopted for the establishment of a force of constabulary. There were to be four district and fifteen ordinary constables, with three "superior officers" and one superintendent. The total cost of the force was estimated at £775 a year. The pay of ordinary constables was to be from £30 to £40. The county at the time was over-run by vagrants.

August 19.—"The demand for shootings has this year been greater than usual, and rents have risen largely. Many gentlemen have returned South after travelling over the whole of the North in search of shooting quarters, without being able to obtain a nook or a cranny. One sportsman, a baronet, has been forced to locate himself at the foot of a high hill, over which he and his friends have to travel ere they

reach their moor, making a daily journey of eight dreary miles." Among the sportsmen whose names are mentioned are the Marquis of Douro at Achnacarry; Lord Ward at Gengarry; Lord Macdonald and Captain Turnor at Castle Leod; Lord Selkirk at Upper Morar; Lord Lauderdale at Lochbroom; Mr St George Gore at Gairloch; Captain Inge at Applecross; Mr Horatio Ross at Craigdarroch; and the Messrs Gladstone at Achnasheen. Sport, however, had not been so good as was expected.

Ibid.—There is a report of the proceedings at the Commission of Assembly, at which it was resolved to libel the seven Strathbogie ministers. The Commission also (as reported in the next issue) resolved to frame a libel against Mr Edwards, presentee to the parish of Marnoch. They accepted the submission of the presentee to the parish of Daviot.

August 26.—The death is announced of Mr Rickman, Second Clerk of the House of Commons. "Mr Rickman was for nearly thirty years Secretary to the Parliamentary Boards of Commissioners for Highland Roads and Bridges, and of the Caledonian Canal, in which situations he always evinced a strong and enthusiastic interest in the improvement of the Highlands. He had made himself familiar with all our roads and bridges, our bays and harbours; and wrote upon the subject with the force and fluency of a man who puts his heart into his words."

Ibid.—"We saw lately a fine gold ring containing a miniature portrait of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, taken in 1744. The ring, as we were told, belonged to the Lord Macdonald of that day [Sir Alexander Macdonald], to whom it was presented by the Prince. It came into the hands of a sister of Lord Macdonald, resident in Moscow, and by her was presented to Mr Smith, merchant in Moscow, who, after a long residence in Russia, returned to his native district of Gallo-way, where he died. The ring is at present in the possession of Mr Nicholson, bookseller, Kirkcudbright. It is of French workmanship, and the portrait is beautifully executed in enamel."

Ibid.—There is an account of a religious awakening at Aness, corresponding to what had occurred elsewhere in Ross-shire. The Rev.

- John Macdonald of Ferintosh was the preacher. Prayer meetings had been previously established by the parish minister, Rev. Mr Flyter.
- Ibid.—On the 15th inst. the foundation-stone of the Scott Monument was laid in Edinburgh.
- September 2.—Mr Duncan's picture of Prince Charles Edward and the Highlanders entering Edinburgh after the battle of Prestonpans is made the text for an article over two columns in length.
- September 9.—An account is given of the improvement effected by Sir Francis Mackenzie in the growth of different descriptions of grain on his estate of Conan. New seeds reared with success in the South were generally imported by Sir Francis, and the results carefully noted. Reclamations and improvements had also been going on in the valley of the Conon. Sir George Mackenzie was engaged in an attempt to alter the course of part of the river, by raising a huge embankment and cutting a new course for the stream. His object was to save the fields from occasional inundation, and to add a tract of good land to the estate. Mr Fowler of Raddery was also engaged in embanking and improving; "and next year there will be several fields won from the waste to greet the eye of those who travel by the new bridge to Contin and Strathpeffer."
- Ibid.—There is an account of the death of Thomas Simpson, the Arctic explorer, who died, it was alleged, by his own hand, after shooting one of his companions in a camp four days' journey from Fort Garry. He was only thirty-two years of age, a man of robust constitution, and naturally of amiable disposition. His brother, Alexander Simpson, afterwards published a biography (Richard Bentley, 1845), in which he maintained that Simpson had been murdered by his companions, who were half-breeds.
- Ibid.—It is mentioned that five editions of Thomas Campbell's poetical works had been published within the last five years, ranging in price from half-a-crown to a sovereign. The popularity of his works at the time was very great.
- September 16.—The Presbytery of Inverness met again to consider the Daviot case, from 80 to 100 parishioners from Daviot being present. The Moderator explained the Veto Act

at great length in Gaelic. "It having been asked of the parishioners present if they understood what had been said to them, their answer, as translated to us, was that they understood it all before they came there, and that they had only come in obedience to the request of the Presbytery. Nothing further was done, and there was no other business before the meeting."

Ibid.—Mr Maitland Makgill Crichton addressed an anti-patronage meeting in Inverness. Rev. Mr Clark was in the chair.

September 23.—On the 9th inst. a whale was captured off the quicksands, in the Dornoch Firth, on the Tain side. The whale was 75 feet 4 inches in length, and its girth round the thickest part was 36 feet. The monster was "in the throes of death" when taken by fishermen.

Ibid.—At a meeting in Nairn it was resolved to establish a Savings Bank for the benefit of the town and county.

September 3.—Extracts are given from the proceedings of the British Association in Glasgow, bearing testimony to the value of Hugh Miller's researches in the Old Red Sandstone, and to the outstanding merits of his papers on the subject, as published in the "Witness." The chief speakers were Mr Murchison (Sir Roderick) and Dr Buckland. Agassiz, who was present, proposed to name one of the specimens of fossil fish *Dipterus Milleri*. It was also stated that Lady Gordon Cumming had come forward as a distinguished and successful investigator in geology.

Ibid.—There is a notice of the work of the Inverness Dispensary. It had been in existence for eight years.—The painting of the Holy Family (attributed to Sasso Ferrato), which was hung in the Royal Academy, was suffering from the attacks of an insect. "Fortunately the circumstance has been discovered in time, before the insect had bored to any great depth, and the picture is now in the hands of Mr Macinnes, artist, whose taste is well known, and who will effectually protect this work of art from any further dilapidation." The picture is now in the Town Hall.

Ibid.—A Ross-shire county meeting discussed the expediency of appointing a constabulary force. The annual cost was estimated at £712. It was resolved to circulate the report

of the Committee, and to delay consideration of it for a year.

October 7.—Wilson, a famous Scottish vocalist, gave three musical entertainments in Inverness the previous week. They are spoken of in terms of great appreciation.

Ibid.—The Northern Meeting was well attended. There were horse races on both days at the Longman. Friday was always reckoned the principal day of the Meeting, and on this occasion 150 dined and about 300 attended the ball and supper. Presents of game and fruit were sent to the Meeting from different quarters. Lord Lovat presented a fine stag and forty hares and rabbits.

Ibid.—The Presbytery of Inverness met on the 30th ult. to moderate in a call to the Rev. Simon Mackintosh to the parish of Daviot. The call was signed by six heritors, by three communicants out of ten, and by 58 male heads of families—total, 67. Dissents were tendered by seven communicants, and a petition was presented against the settlement of the presentee, purporting to be signed by 194 parishioners, including 119 heads of families. The Presbytery adjourned consideration of the case.

Ibid.—Marshal Macdonald, Duke of Tarentum, died at his Chateau of Courcelles, aged 75.

October 14.—A paragraph records the death of an old woman, Mrs Batchen, Elgin, who was supposed to be 109 years of age. The actual date of her birth, however, had not been discovered. "It is said that she was in the service of Mrs Anderson of Arradowal (commonly called Lady Arradowal) at the time that lady entertained Prince Charles Edward on his passing through Elgin previous to the disastrous battle of Culloden, and that she gave out the 'best Holland sheets the house could afford' for the bed which the Prince was to occupy."

Ibid.—There is a report of the address delivered by Professor Agassiz at the meeting of the British Association, showing that glaziers formerly existed in the Highlands of Scotland.

Ibid.—A boat from Hopeman was upset by a squall in the Firth, and five of its crew of six were drowned.

October 21.—Interest was created by the discovery of iron and lead ore on the Duke of

Richmond's estate, near Tomintoul. The Duke was anxious to have both veins worked.

Ibid.—A case of what was believed to be murder had occurred in the parish of Knockando. A farmer named Alexander Tulloch had been found dead, bearing marks of violence. The culprit was supposed to be the man's son-in-law, Peter Cameron, who managed, after he was arrested, to escape from the constables who had him in charge. A reward of £20 was offered for his apprehension.

Ibid.—The Inverness Farmers' Society held a successful show of stock. At the dinner the best mode of cultivating turnips was discussed. The chief speakers were Mr Brown of Linkwood, Mr Geddes, Orbliston, and Sir Francis Mackenzie of Gairloch.

Ibid.—The Rev. Robert Williamson, parish minister of Croick, had accepted a call some time before to the Scottish Church of Pictou, Nova Scotia. There is in this number a notice of his induction to his new charge. A number of Mr Williamson's former congregation, and others from the parishes of Croick and Assynt, engaged to accompany him to Nova Scotia. "He made the most judicious arrangements for their comfort and accommodation abroad, and procured a handsome sum to enable the humbler amongst them to emigrate. He got a vessel to come to Lochinver for them—the Deveron, Captain Maclean—which made the passage in 27 days to Pictou. Mr Williamson had every intention of accompanying his little Highland colony, but the state of his amiable lady's health detained him a few weeks later, when he went by the British King, and had a most tedious voyage, a fever having broken out on board, which carried off several of the passengers. On Mr and Mrs Williamson's arrival at Pictou, the passengers by the Deveron waited on their minister, to express to him their deep sense of the unremitting kindness of the captain, and no less that of the owner, Mr Watson, who made the voyage along with them. These poor, grateful Highlanders were clubbing their spare pence to purchase a silver snuff-box for Captain Maclean."

Ibid.—The amount of assessment in Inverness for the poor was £1600, but this was calculated for about five hundred poor, and to cover preliminary expenses. After investigation, only

three hundred legal poor were placed on the roll. The permanent assessment was expected to be about £1000, at the rate of less than 1s per pound on occupancy and less than 4d on property. The population of town and parish was about 16,000.

October 28.—The death of Lord Holland is announced. "He was one of the steadiest and noblest landmarks of the Whig party."

Ibid.—The Glengarry estates were exposed for sale in Edinburgh on the 20th inst. "The estate of Glengarry was put up at £88,000, and after many offers was sold to Lord Ward at £91,000. The estate of Inverlochy Castle was exposed to sale at £68,000, and after a keen competition was knocked down to an English gentleman for £75,150." The latter purchaser was afterwards stated to be the Hon. Mr Scarlett, son of Lord Abinger.

Ibid.—A work issued on National Instruction showed that the average income of parochial teachers, from salaries, fees, and other emoluments, amounted to £47 5s 11½d per annum, or about 18s 2½d per week. Adding house and garden, their emoluments were about £1 per week.

November 4.—The Earl of Seafield died on the 26th ult., at the age of seventy-three. His lordship succeeded to the title and estates on the death of James, seventh Earl of Findlater and fourth Earl of Seafield. The Hon. Colonel Francis William Grant, brother of the deceased Earl, now succeeded.

Ibid.—The elections for the Inverness Town Council turned this year on the question of an assessment for the poor. The result was completely in favour of the "non-assessors," and also gave a majority of Whigs to the Town Council. A large number of the inhabitants resisted payment of the assessment.

Ibid.—A disastrous storm had swept over the Shetland Isles, causing great loss of life. The number of victims is not precisely stated, but many families had been left desolate.

Ibid.—A private letter from a young man who emigrated in 1838 gives a deplorable account of the condition of New South Wales. The convict system had corrupted the community. "Emigrate," says the writer, "your redundant population must, but let them emigrate to shores not the receptacle of the winnowings of

the most abandoned and thoroughly depraved of the human family."

November 11.—Attention is directed to the progress of geological science. "Mr Anderson, of this town, has just discovered, in the sandstone quarry at Castleleathers burn, at the base of the Leys, a layer abounding with the scales and portions of fossil fish, some of which must have been of great size." It is pointed out that the deposit is older than the coal measures, and that it would be imprudent to risk money in quest of coal. Mr P. Duff, Elgin, had been publishing a series of papers on the Geology of Moray, in the 'Elgin Courant,' and the Morayshire Literary and Scientific Association was carrying on its work with vigour and success. The editor suggested the formation of a scientific club in Inverness.

Ibid.—At a meeting of Inverness Town Council the question arose whether bailies were entitled to retain office during their term as Councillors. Provost Cumming held that they were, and moved the election of one bailie and treasurer to fill vacant offices. Mr Macandrew held that the uniform practice in Inverness was to elect the magistrates annually, and he moved that the Council should now proceed to elect four magistrates, a dean of guild, and treasurer. The amendment was carried by a majority of twelve votes to nine, and new magistrates were then elected. Provost Cumming announced that he had now determined to resign office, as he had been deprived of the co-operation of everyone of the gentlemen who were associated with him in the magistracy.

Ibid.—A curious question arose in connection with the Nairn election. There were six vacancies. Four candidates were duly elected, but other three had an equality of votes. One of the three intimated his resignation, but the Provost and Town-Clerk held that this did not entitle the remaining two to receive induction. The only way was to hold a fresh election for the two places. This was accordingly done.

November 8.—A large party of the directors and shareholders of the Caledonian Bank dined in the Caledonian Hotel, and presented Mr John Ross, Berbice Cottage, with a handsome piece of plate "in acknowledgment of his disinterested and valuable services as manager of the Bank at the period of its commencement, and

subsequently as Chairman of the Board of Directors." Colonel Ross of Strathgarve was in the chair.

Ibid.—At a meeting of Dingwall Town Council, called for the election of magistrates, Bailie Charles Stewart was seized with an apopleptic fit, and died in half-an-hour. The business was adjourned. "Mr Stewart was a generous and kind-hearted man, much and justly esteemed by his fellow-townsmen."

November 25.—On the 21st inst., Queen Victoria gave birth to a daughter, the Princess Royal, afterwards Empress of Germany.

Ibid.—This issue gives an account of a drive to the Glengarry country. It relates the story of Evan M'Phee, who then lived as a "bold outlaw" in an island in Loch Quoich. The story is preserved in the Highland Notebook.

December 2.—War had been going on for some time with Mahomet Ali, the ruler of Egypt, who claimed Syria. With the aid of the British fleet, the Egyptian forces were driven from Acre, and the town was once more placed in possession of the Turks.

Ibid.—The question was raised at the Inverness Town Council whether the resignation by Mr Cumming of the office of Provost involved the resignation of his seat at the Council. The point was referred to the opinion of counsel.

December 9.—With the permission of the British Government, the remains of the Emperor Napoleon were removed from St Helena to be deposited in Paris.

Ibid.—Duncan George Forbes of Culloden, great-grandson of the President, died at Forres on the 28th ult., at the age of 60. His remains were removed to Culloden House, and were interred on the 5th inst. in the family burying-ground in the Chapel-Yard, Inverness. A collision occurred on the occasion between two sections of the tenantry. The Ferintosh men claimed the right of carrying the body and surrounding the hearse in its progress. When the procession had gone about half-a-mile, part of the Culloden people sallied from a wood, armed with sticks, and endeavoured to drive their opponents from the hearse. They succeeded in dislodging the main body, but a few of the Ferintosh men held fast by the hearse, and did not relinquish their hold until they arrived at the burial place. It was feared that

the contest would be repeated in the church-yard, but the exertions of Mr John Macbean, messenger-at-arms, and the superintendent of police, prevented such a deplorable result. "The gentlemen of the district, and the respectable tenants on each side, carried the coffin, while the men from the country walked beside them. The whole of the surrounding walls, tombs, and monuments in the church-yard were covered with spectators, forming a novel and impressive spectacle."

Ibid.—The Presbytery of Inverness had another long sederunt on the Daviot case. It was ultimately resolved to refer it to the Assembly, with any further minutes which might be added before the first Tuesday of March.

December 16.—The Inverness High Church was re-opened on Sunday after undergoing repair. The table-seats had been displaced to make room for pews, by which additional accommodation was obtained. The church was also heated by means of stoves.

Ibid.—Counsel intimated their opinion that Mr Cumming, by resigning his office as Provost, did not resign his office as Councillor.

Ibid.—The Highland Society voted their silver medal to Sir Francis A. Mackenzie of Gairloch, for his report on the comparative values of wheat grown on Conan Mains.

December 23.—A meeting was held in a hall in Castle Street, which was addressed by a Chartist speaker from London, Mr Julian Harney. There was a charge of twopence for admission "to pay expenses." About ninety persons were present. The speech was followed by a free discussion, and it was found that the large majority of the meeting were opposed to the views of the speaker. In the midst of considerable confusion, the police-officers entered, and the orderly portion of the meeting withdrew. "We understand that after paying the expenses of the room Mr Harney had a balance of 1s 6d in his favour. A subscription was afterwards made by his supporters, which amounted to 2s 6d; and yesterday Mr Julian Harney left town to proceed to Forres."

Ibid.—A series of articles on "Inverness in the Olden Time" begins in this issue. They are chiefly drawn from the burgh records. The convivial habits of the city fathers are de-

picted. The writer inferred that a royal birthday meant the consumption of six dozen of claret, but the Provost and Bailies shared their good cheer with other dignitaries and town officials. The amount spent for eating and drinking in the early part of the eighteenth century is estimated at £50 a year—a very considerable sum in those days. In subsequent issues there are notes on neighbouring towns as well as on Inverness.

December 30.—At a meeting of Inverness Town Council, Dr J. I. Nicol was elected a member of Council, in place of Mr Rennie, who had resigned. At the same meeting Dr Nicol was elected Provost of the burgh.

Ibid.—“On Wednesday week the estate of Barra, in Inverness-shire, was put up to sale in Paxton's Exchange Coffee-House, at £36,000; and after various biddings was knocked down to Colonel Gordon of Cluny for the sum of £38,050.”

No. XVII.

The year 1841 is important in political history. The Whigs had now been in office for ten years, and during the latter part of the period had incurred much opposition on account of their Irish policy, which was represented as subservient to Daniel O'Connell and injurious to Protestant interests. The agitation on the Corn Laws had also begun. In connection with this subject in the first part of the session of 1841, Lord John Russell announced that he intended on 31st May to move the following resolution:—"That the House should resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the Acts of Parliament relating to the trade in corn." The division, however, took place on a subsidiary question relating to the sugar duties, though the subject mainly discussed was the merit of a fixed duty on corn as opposed to a sliding scale. Lord John Russell was in favour of a fixed duty, Sir Robert Peel of the sliding scale. The Government was defeated by 36 votes—317 to 281. They did not, however, resign until Sir Robert Peel proposed a vote of no confidence, which was carried by a majority of one (312 to 311). A dissolution of Parliament followed, and Sir Robert Peel came into power with a majority of 68.

From the "Inverness Courier."

1841.

January 13.—The game of curling promised to become naturalised. It was unknown here until the late Mr Wilson, of the Caledonian Hotel, introduced curling stones and established the game on Loch-na-Sanaid. "This year a more solid foundation has been laid; stones and besoms have been provided in numbers, rinks are formed, and a regular club has been constituted."

Ibid.—The sudden death of the Rev. Mr Kennedy, of Killearnan, is announced. He was seized with croup in the throat on the previous Saturday, and died next day. Mr Kennedy was the father of the late Dr Kennedy, of Dingwall, and a popular and impressive preacher.

Ibid.—A marvellous escape is recorded. Mr

Grant of Glenmoriston and two friends were driving along the banks of Loch-Ness at a steep spot, when the horses slipped on the ice, and dragged the carriage over a rock sixty feet high. The occupants of the carriage had just time to throw themselves out, but the coachman went with the horses. Their fall, however, was broken by trees and brushwood. The coachman escaped unhurt, and the horses were swung up by ropes little the worse. The paragraph recalls a similar accident which had happened at the same spot to the family of Macleod of Macleod a few years before. The writer strongly insists on the erection of parapets along this line of road.

Ibid.—There is a long review of a romance by Charles Mackay, entitled "Longbeard, Lord of London." The review, we believe, was written by Angus B. Reach, a young native of Inverness, who was afterwards well known as a distinguished London journalist.

January 20.—The first annual report of the Inverness National Security Savings Bank was submitted at a meeting on 15th inst. It stated that 361 accounts had been opened, and that the amount in bank at the close of the financial year (30th November) was £1510 3s 6d.

January 27.—There is an interesting article, entitled "Scenes on the Coasts of Sutherland and Ross." The writer gives an account of the departure of a party of emigrants from Helmsdale at the close of a successful fishing season. Half-a-dozen Dutch vessels were loading at the quay. The party embarking in the emigrant ship were from the upland parts of the strath. Men, women, and children evinced signs of grief, the sorrow of the women being loud and open. As the vessel moved away, the pipes played, "We return no more." An old man, a catechist, accompanied the party on board the vessel, and before returning to shore he poured forth a long and pathetic Gaelic prayer. The writer joined the vessel, going with it as far as Tarbat Ness. The night closed in dark and stormy, and the ship had to lie off Tarbat Point until day broke. Most of the passengers had hardly ever seen the sea before, and the gale terrified them.

Suddenly, as if by common consent, they raised a Gaelic psalm tune, which mingled, with wild and plaintive effect, with the roar of surf and wind. The writer disembarked in the morning, and the vessel held on its way.

Ibid.—One of the difficulties of the time finds expression in a note. In consequence of a storm, parcels of newspaper stamps had been detained on the road. "We are thus," says the publisher, "compelled to print part of our impression this week on unstamped paper; but the proper affidavit and acknowledgment will, of course, be made to the Stamp Office."

Ibid.—"On Wednesday last a duel took place in Ross-shire between Duncan Davidson, Esq. of Tulloch, and Hugh Ross, Esq. of Cromarty and Glastullich. The quarrel originated in the proceedings of the county meeting, held lately at Invergordon, on the subject of the Prison Board. Mr Davidson was Chairman of the meeting, and Mr Ross conceived that he interrupted him improperly in the course of the discussion. Under this impression he addressed a letter to Mr Davidson of Tulloch, which the latter felt to be of a nature that required explanation or apology. A duel was the result. The parties met at two o'clock on Wednesday, near the Kinraig Road, by Balnagown Castle. Mr Davidson was attended by Lord Macdonald, and Lieutenant Grant, commanding the recruiting party in Tain, acted as the friend of Mr Ross. Dr W. B. Ross, of Tain, was on the ground to officiate if medical aid was required. After the usual preliminaries, Mr Davidson fired, as we are informed, 'somewhat in the direction' of his opponent, and Mr Ross discharged his pistol in the air. The seconds now interfered, and the principals having shaken hands, left the ground." Tulloch afterwards wrote to say that the meeting took place not because Mr Ross declined to apologise to him, but because he declined to apologise to Mr Ross for having interrupted him, "as he [Mr Ross] conceived, in an abrupt and uncalled-for manner." There was a great deal of discussion at the time on the subject of duelling, arising from the case of Lord Cardigan and other incidents.

Ibid.—The directors of the Tain Royal Academy make an appeal for funds. The institution had been worked on rather a lavish scale, but

this was not the chief cause of the financial deficiency. A classical master who had proved inefficient had been discharged. He carried the case to the law courts, ultimately to the House of Lords. The suit went against him, but the cost to the directors was about £1000.

February 3.—The question of a legal assessment for the poor continued to agitate the community. It was discussed at a public meeting, and by the Town Council, heritors, and kirk-session. The Town Council, by a majority of twelve to four, determined against a legal assessment; and the same view was taken at a meeting of heritors and kirk-session by a majority of 56 to 36.

Ibid.—An account is given of the induction of Mr Edwards to the parish of Marnoch, one of the historic incidents in the Church controversy.

February 10.—It is stated that an English gentleman, Mr Bainbridge, M.P. for Taunton, was lessee of the Glengarry shootings previous to the purchase of the property by Lord Ward; and, annoyed by the loss of game, this gentleman set about a vigorous system of war and extermination against all the vermin intruders. He engaged numerous game-keepers, paying them liberally, and awarding prizes to those who should prove most successful. The result was the destruction, within three years, of above four thousand head of vermin, and a proportional increase in the stock of game. A full list of the vermin destroyed at Glengarry from Whitsunday 1837 to Whitsunday 1840, is subjoined, and may be quoted here as still interesting:—

| | |
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| 11 Foxes. | 63 Gos hawks. |
| 198 Wild cats. | 285 Common buzzards. |
| 246 Marten cats. | 371 Rough-legged buzzards. |
| 106 Pole cats. | 3 Long buzzards. |
| 301 Stots and weasels. | 462 Kestrel or red hawks. |
| 67 Badgers. | 78 Martin hawks. |
| 48 Otters. | 83 Hen harriers or ring-tailed hawks. |
| 78 House cats, going wild. | 6 Ger falcon toe-feathered hawks. |
| 27 White-tailed sea eagles. | 9 Ash-coloured hawks, or long blue-tailed do. |
| 15 Golden eagles. | 1431 Hooded or carrion crows. |
| 18 Osprey or fishing eagles. | 475 Ravens. |
| 96 Blue hawks or peregrine falcons. | 35 Horned owls. |
| 7 Orange-legged falcons. | 71 Common fern owls. |
| 11 Hobby hawks. | 3 Golden owls. |
| 275 Kites, commonly called salmon-tailed sledes. | 8 Magpies. |
| 5 Marsh harriers or yellow-legged hawks. | |

Ibid.—A man named Cameron, accused of murdering his father-in-law at Ballintomb, had been apprehended after hiding for months in the district.—A man from Lochaber, convicted of rape, had been sentenced to death. The execution was to have taken place at Inverness, but the sentence was commuted to transportation for life.

Ibid.—A note in this issue says that "the excitement in this town on the subject of the poor laws surpasses anything of the kind witnessed here since the passing of the Reform Bill." The meetings on the subject are reported at length. We have mentioned the result above.

February 17.—The expediency of a general and extensive system of emigration to relieve the destitute poor of the Highlands was brought before Parliament by Mr Henry Baillie, M.P. for Inverness-shire. In moving for a committee of inquiry, Mr Baillie stated that owing to the depression of the kelp trade by the reduction of the duties on salt, sulphur, and barilla, many of the Highland estates were ruined, and the tenants and occupiers deprived of the means of living. He reckoned that there were 40,000 persons standing in need of assistance, and that the expense of removal to Canada would be £3 each, consequently a grant of £120,000 would be required. The leaders of the House and the Opposition (Lord John Russell and Sir Robert Peel) held out no hope of a money grant, and the motion was confined to the appointment of a committee of inquiry, which was granted.

Ibid.—An account is given of the surrender of Dost Mahomed to our forces from India. Captain Fraser, 2nd Bengal Cavalry, a brother of Mr Fraser of Culduthel, distinguished himself in the operations.

February 24.—A paragraph mentions that a great evil in the emigration from the Highlands to Australia was that only young and able-bodied persons were conveyed free. The consequence was that poor, helpless females—sisters, grandmothers, &c.—were thrown upon the parish funds, and the emigration, instead of lessening, increased the misery of many districts in the Highlands.

Ibid.—Some reference had been made by a contemporary to the relative numbers of strangers and natives employed in the construction of

the Caledonian Canal while that great work was in progress. "It is a common error," says the editor, "that the Highlanders were found such bad labourers that it was necessary to engage Irishmen, by whom it is said the greater part of the excavations and other works were made. We have now before us a detailed account of the number and proportion of labourers employed on the canal, from which it appears that not above 1 in 60 of the whole were other than natives of the Highlands." This statement is supported by detailed figures. The writer adds that the masons were chiefly from Morayshire, and the blacksmiths and carpenters principally from the neighbourhood of Inverness, with a few from England and Wales.

Ibid.—The trial of Lord Cardigan on a charge of felony for having shot at Captain Tuckett, in a duel, "with intent to commit murder," took place before the House of Lords. Counsel for the defence took the technical plea that Captain Tuckett's name was not properly given in the indictment. The House sustained this objection, and Lord Cardigan was acquitted. The trial, however, put an end to duelling in this country.

March 3.—The Government submitted an Irish Registration Bill, which was intended to settle a difficult question raised the previous session by Lord Stanley, and again revived by him. On the second reading Ministers had a majority of 5 votes—301 to 296. This saved the position for the moment, but it was felt that the Government could not carry their bill, and that a crisis which had been long postponed was close at hand.

March 10.—Provost Nicol submitted to the Inverness Town Council a proposal to memorialise the Treasury on behalf of a survey for a railway to come to Inverness by the coast route. The memorial was unanimously approved of.

Ibid.—The Parliamentary Committee appointed to inquire into the condition of the population of the Highlands had commenced its sittings. The remit from the House was to "inquire into the practicability of affording relief by means of emigration." This, the editor thought, was too restricted. The inquiry should have embraced not only the subject of

emigration, but the improvement of the condition of the people who were to remain at home.

March 17.—“In the River Glass, near Kil-morack, is a small picturesque island, on which Lord Lovat has erected a handsome house, the residence of two gentlemen, descendants of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, who wear the Highland dress, and are animated with true Celtic enthusiasm. Their collection of Highland antiquities rivals that of Captain Grose, so humorously described by Burns, and

adds not a little to the interest with which their solitary mansion, with its rustic bridge and foaming waterfall, is viewed in the midst of scenery the most splendid for variety, richness, and magnificence.” This notice introduces the Sobieski Stuarts, whose claim to be descended from Prince Charlie was exploded by subsequent investigation. A mystery, however, still hangs over their descent and career. The article gives a description of Eilean Aigas.

Ibid.—“The town of Wick is now lighted with gas—an invention which extends from one extremity of the kingdom to the other.”

Ibid.—An account is given of reclamations and improvements made on the farms of Easter and Wester Corn-town, Ross-shire, by Mr James Ure. Mr Ure entered on Easter Corn-town in 1829, and added Wester Corn-town in 1835. In trenching, draining, erecting farm offices, building dykes, planting hedges, and bringing in waste land, he spent on the first farm £2610, and on the second (where farm offices were not required), £906. Details of the expense are given and of the improvements effected.

March 31.—Lord Lovat had leased to an English gentleman, Mr Thomas Dodd, a lead mine lately opened in Strathglass. The object of Mr Dodd was to form a company for working the mine, by raising a capital of £4000 in shares of £4 each.

Ibid.—A well-built barque of 80 tons was launched from a building-yard at Jemimaville, on Major Munro's estate of Poyntzfield. The vessel was built of wood grown on Poyntzfield estate.

April 7.—A fancy dress ball, held in the

Northern Meeting Rooms in connection with the Harriers Hunt Club, appears to have excited great local interest. The rooms were gaily decorated with tartans, evergreens, and arms. "On the floor might be seen the costumes of various countries—the Chinese mandarin, Albanian chief, nobles and courtiers of the olden time, Highland chiefs, officers, jockeys, and sailors—while grace and beauty were imparted to the scene by ladies in rich and showy dresses, from the style of the Princess to that of the German peasant and Swiss flower-girl." The dress of Miss Campbell, Kilravock Castle, was acknowledged to be the finest. "It was worn by a royal daughter of France in the thirteenth century." Mr Hay Mackenzie of Cromarty appeared in a costume which had been actually worn by an Albanian chief.

April 14.—The Presbytery of Inverness had a long discussion on the subject of Church patronage. Rev. Mr Clark, Inverness, moved in favour of abolition; Rev. Dr Rose moved against taking any steps on the subject. In the end, by a majority of four votes, the Presbytery resolved to adjourn the discussion.

April 27.—An emigrant ship, the Pacific, sailed from Scrabster Roads the previous week for Quebec. No fewer than 190 passengers were on board, the great majority from the parish of Reay.

Ibid.—A vessel which was named the Rosehaugh was launched at Avoch on the 6th inst. It was built by a firm named Davidson, chiefly from wood on the Rosehaugh estate. Lady Ann Mackenzie performed the ceremony of christening.

Ibid.—A man named Peter Cameron was tried at the Circuit Court at Inverness for the murder of his father-in-law at Bahintomb, Knockando. The jury brought in a verdict of culpable homicide, apparently on the ground that, though the attack was deliberate, the man only meant to inflict injury, so as to put a stop to his father-in-law's second marriage, but not to kill. Witnesses also stated that Cameron "had not the common judgment of other men." He was sentenced to transportation for life. Prisoners were in those days carried from one place to another

by the ordinary coach, which exposed them to a great deal of public curiosity. Cameron had been brought from Elgin by the Star Coach, and his arrival was witnessed by "a dense and violent multitude."

April 28.—John Shanks, the beadle or cicerone of Elgin Cathedral, died on the 14th inst. in the eighty-third year of his age. "His unwearied enthusiasm in clearing away the rubbish which encumbered the area of the Cathedral and obscured its architectural beauties, may be gathered from the fact that he removed, with his pick-axe and shovel, 2866 barrowfuls of earth, besides disclosing a flight of steps that led to the grand gateway of the edifice. Tombs and figures, which had long lain hid in obscurity, were unearthed and every monumental fragment of saints and holy men was carefully preserved, and placed in some appropriate situation. . . . So faithfully did he discharge his duty as keeper of the ruins, that little now remains but to preserve what he accomplished."

Ibid.—Extracts are given in this and other issues from evidence led before the Parliamentary Committee on the subject of Highland emigration. An opinion of some interest was given by the Rev. Robert Macpherson, one of the ministers of Inverness. He attributed the destitution on the West Coast to the injudicious means taken to prevent emigration thirty or thirty-five years before. In consequence of the good accounts sent home from America by small bodies of people who had emigrated previously, there was a very general desire on the part of the Western Highlanders to try their fortune also in America. The landlords, however, were alarmed at the prospect of the people going away, and the factor for Clanranald wrote a book "deprecating emigration as the greatest curse that could befall a country." The prevalence of these opinions is borne out by the files of early newspapers.

May 5.—The Government was twice defeated in Committee on the Irish Registration Bill, and abandoned the measure.

Ibid.—The line of road from Castle Stuart to the boundary of Nairnshire was in progress, and was expected to be finished by September. The report of the Parliamentary Com-

mission for Highland Roads and Bridges for 1840 had been issued. It appears from it that, owing to the severe snow-storm of that year, the Highland road was impassable for the mail coach for six weeks. It was not without difficulty that a horse-track, through the deep and extensive snow-wreaths, was kept open.

Ibid.—At a meeting of the Synod of Moray, a discussion took place on the question whether the seven suspended ministers of Strathbogie should be enrolled. In the end a motion of Rev. Mr Clark, Inverness, for the exclusion of the seven members, was carried by 31 votes to 8. In the course of some discussion on dissent, Dr Rose, Drainie, made the following declaration:—"He had no fear of dissenters. Dissent was the safety valve of the Established Church. If there were not a powerful body of dissenters, the ministers and members of the Established Church would become indolent; and on the other hand, were it not for the Established Church, dissenters would run into wild fanaticism. They were of mutual benefit to each other."

Ibid.—The marriage of Lord Bruce, eldest son of the Earl of Elgin, with Miss Cumming Bruce, only daughter of Major Cumming Bruce of Dunphail and Kinnaird, came off on the 22nd ult. The rejoicings on the occasion are reported.

Ibid.—Through the efforts of the Duke of Richmond, the town of Fochabers succeeded in establishing its claim to a bequest of over £20,000 left in America by Mr Alexander Milne. The inferior Courts had decided that parties in Scotland could not succeed to legacies left, under the circumstances in which they were in this instance bequeathed, by a citizen of the State of Louisiana. The Duke of Richmond, however, persisted in carrying the case to the Supreme Court, which decided in favour of Fochabers and of other legatees mentioned in the will.

May 19.—The "Port Philip Gazette," of date 2nd December 1840, had come to the office, containing an account, four columns in length, of a fete to which Macdonell of Glengarry was entertained at Port Philip on St Andrew's Day. The chief, with his family, had arrived in good health at "that distant settlement."

The names at the dinner were all Scottish, and grace was said in Gaelic.

May 26.—The great debate in the House of Commons on the sugar duties lasted for eight days. In the division there was a majority of 36 against the Government—317 to 281. Sir Robert Peel, in a speech of two hours, pledged himself only to one point—the resistance to a fixed duty on corn.

Ibid.—On the previous Monday two new coaches were placed on the road between Perth and Inverness. The rivals were "The Princess Royal" and "The Duke of Wellington," and both were driven for the day by amateur drivers, one by Mr Davidson of Tulloch and the other by Mr Ramsay of Barnton. Monday being the 24th, was the Queen's birthday, and there was bell-ringing and a half-holiday. "In the evening the Aberdeen mail arrived, splendidly decorated with flowers, evergreens, and flags, the coach drawn by six horses, with a postillion in full dress, the guard in his new scarlet coat, and the bugle sounding a merry and joyous strain. When the coach stopped at the Union Hotel, some hundreds greeted its arrival with acclamations. The new rival coaches betwixt Perth and Inverness made their debut on the occasion, and we question if the Highland road ever before witnessed such feats of horsemanship. Both seem to have run at the rate of about twelve miles an hour. The 'Princess Royal,' driven (for that day only) by Mr Davidson of Tulloch, left Perth at half-past five o'clock a.m., and was rattling through our streets at ten minutes before four. The 'Duke of Wellington' (driven by another amateur, Mr Ramsay of Barnton) started from Perth at six o'clock the same morning, and reached Inverness at five minutes past four. In the evening the friends of both establishments met in the Caledonian and Union Hotels, and respectively quaffed a bumper to their Queen and their coach! Mr Ramsay of Barnton performed a very generous action. After expressing his interest in the 'Duke' and in the success of the Caledonian Hotel, he presented Mr Grant with a team of four horses, with harness, all in prime condition, and ready for the field."

June 2.—The General Assembly was fully occu-

pied with the Church question. The motion of Dr Chalmers for the deposition of the seven Strathbogie ministers was carried by a majority of 97. Two non-intrusionists, Mr Brown, of Dunfermline, and Mr Clark, Inverness, disapproved of the motion. The latter was in favour of suspension *sine die*. Mr Edwards, the presentee to Marnoch, was deprived of his licence. The Daviot case was also before the House, and the Presbytery of Inverness was instructed to reject the presentee.

Ibid.—On the previous Friday, as some men were engaged in the drainage of part of Loch-Farraline, they came upon a quantity of old fire-arms—a brass blunderbuss in excellent preservation, about twelve muskets, the scabbard of a sword, and other articles. There was a tradition in the district that a quantity of arms had been thrown into the lake in connection with the rising of '45, probably after Culloden. In the immediate neighbourhood of the spot is the house of Gertuleg, where Prince Charlie made his first halt after the battle.

June 9.—The motion of Sir Robert Peel, declaring a want of confidence in the Government, was carried on the 3rd inst. by a majority of one—the numbers being 312 to 311.

June 16.—The second report of the Committee on Highland emigration was published. The Committee found that an excess of population existed on the Western Coast of the counties of Argyll, Inverness, and Ross, and in the islands; "and this excess of population, who are for the most part, for a period of every year, in a state of great destitution, was variously calculated at from 45,000 to 80,000 souls." Further, the Committee were informed "that the famine and destitution in the years 1836 and 1837 was so extensive that many thousands would have died of starvation had it not been for the assistance which they received from Government and the public; that the sum of £70,000 was collected, and distributed at that period in the shape of food and clothing, and all the witnesses were of opinion that this district of the country was liable to similar visitations in succeeding years." The Committee had already reported that a well-arranged system of emigration was

of primary importance; and they now added that it seemed to them impossible to carry out such a system, on so extensive a scale as would be necessary, without aid and assistance from Government, accompanied by such regulations as Parliament might impose to prevent a recurrence of similar evils.

Ibid.—A meeting was held in the Inverness Burgh Court-House to express sympathy with the seven Strathbogie ministers, and disapprobation of the course adopted by the General Assembly. "Though not numerous, the meeting was highly respectable, and all appeared zealous in the cause." Provost Nicol was in the chair. The meeting caused some local controversy.

Ibid.—It was now known that a dissolution of Parliament was in prospect, and political addresses began to appear. In several northern constituencies it was understood that there was to be no contest.

Ibid.—Sir Francis Mackenzie of Gairloch had succeeded in hatching salmon fry, with which he intended to stock the river Ewe. The experiment was regarded as specially interesting, as the possibility of propagating salmon had been denied.

June 23.—Highlanders in London were greatly interested in a shinty match organised by the committee of a body which called itself "The Society of True Highlanders." The match took place in Copenhagen Fields, "an extent of rich meadow land lying on the outskirts of Islington." There was much enthusiasm and keenly contested games. It is said that before the gathering half the glens of Lochaber had been ransacked for shinty clubs. In the evening there was a dinner, at which Mr Forbes Macneil presided, and many northern gentlemen were present. The Chairman was supported on the right by Commodore Sir Charles Napier, who was fresh from the laurels he had won on the Syrian Coast in the war with Mehemet Ali.

Ibid.—On the previous Thursday morning the North Star steamer, on its passage from London to Inverness, struck on a rock near Johnshaven. The hour was about half-past one, and there was a very thick fog. About seventy passengers were on board in their sleeping berths. They were all got safely

ashore in boats. The greater part of the cargo was much damaged. The vessel was twenty-five miles out of her course.

Ibid.—The census was taken this year. The population of the parish and burgh of Inverness was 15,308, an increase of 984 in ten years. Within the royalty the population was 9057, and within the Parliamentary burgh 11,575.

Ibid.—The Castle Commissioners had resolved to enclose and dress up the southern extremity of the Castle Hill, which had been for some years in a most unsightly and irregular condition.—A prospectus was issued for providing new public markets for Inverness by means of a joint-stock company. The site fixed upon was the space behind St John's Episcopal Church.

June 30.—There is an account of the public dinner given to Charles Dickens in Edinburgh. The entertainment came off in the Waterloo Rooms, tickets a guinea each. The place was seated for 250, and there was double the number of applications. When Dickens rose to reply he is described as making rather a singular appearance. "It was a mixture of pride struggling with bashfulness, effeminacy with natural, manly feeling, dandyism with simplicity. He is very young looking, of a slender frame, and his pale, oval face is encased in a mass of dark-brown hair, worn in the most approved dandy style, as if his features were set in a frame. His style of speaking was Cockneyish, quick, and unoratorical, but his language fresh and sparkling."

Ibid.—The day after the Dickens banquet, Macaulay addressed the electors of Edinburgh in the same place. The correspondent writes—"In the general press and squeeze I got jammed in by the side of Professor Wilson, who, albeit no Whig, was drawn by admiration of talent to the meeting. He listened with great attention, without joining in the cheers or hisses, but I noticed that, when the Chairman called for a show of hands, as to Mr Macaulay being a fit and proper person to represent the city, the 'old man eloquent' raised his manly arm in testimony of his acquiescence. Mr Macaulay is a plain, decent-looking, stout, little man, something like a respectable shop-keeper, with a strong dash of the West High-

lander in his swarthy countenance, while his staid expression, and short hair, combed back, gave him a sort of puritanical appearance. His voice is clear and his manner firm and determined."

Ibid.—On the 22nd inst. a vessel, the *Anne* of Belleport, was launched at Belleport. "Upwards of sixty years have now passed away since that most patriotic countryman, and gallant old soldier, the late Sir Hector Munro, planted the woods which now clothe the romantic heights that form the back-ground of the demesne of Novar. It is from these woods the materials of the *Anne* have been selected. She is about 120 tons register, and is the property of Captain Hall, by whom she was built. That spirited individual has already built several other vessels at Belleport, some of them of much larger dimensions than the *Anne*."

July 7.—The General Election was now going on. For the Inverness Burghs Mr Morrison was returned without a contest. He was nominated on the hustings by Provost Nicol, and seconded by Mr James Smith, architect. For the county Mr Henry J. Baillie was also returned unopposed. He was nominated by Mr Mackintosh of Geddes, and seconded by Captain Macpherson, Biallid. In the Elgin Burghs there was a contest between Sir Andrew Leith Hay, Liberal, and Mr Duff, Conservative. The Liberal was returned by a majority of 14 votes (311 to 297.) An incident of the election was the presence of a Chartist orator, who had a platform to himself, and delivered a long tirade against both Whigs and Tories.

Ibid.—At a meeting of the Presbytery of Inverness, the sentence of the General Assembly in the Daviot case was submitted, rejecting the presentee, Mr Simon Mackintosh, and directing this to be intimated to the patron (the Crown.) The Presbytery resolved to comply with the injunction. Rev. Dr Rose, Inverness, moved, and Rev. Mr Fraser, Dores, seconded, a motion declaring that "in making this intimation to the Crown, in obedience to the General Assembly, the Presbytery state that they are perfectly aware that they are in violation of statute law as declared by the Court of Session and the House of Lords, and

that if the patron or presentee may choose in this case to assert their undoubted rights, the Presbytery will have the alternative of being deposed or subjected to an action of damages and imprisonment. The Presbytery therefore respectfully but earnestly submit to the Crown, and through it to the Legislature, whether this be a situation in which any loyal and obedient subject should be placed or suffered to remain for a single day." It was moved by Rev. Mr Fraser, Kirkhill, and seconded by Rev. Mr Sutherland, that this statement be not transmitted. The motion not to transmit was carried by five votes to four.

Ibid.—It is stated that on the 5th inst. a pensioner named Donald Ross died at Culrain, in the parish of Kincardine, Ross-shire, in the 107th year of his age. "This hoary veteran formed a connecting link betwixt this and a period now scarcely recollected but as a matter of history. He entered the British army as a private, in the 21st or Royal North British Regiment of Fusiliers, during the reign of George the Second, and having received a wound was discharged, in the rank of corporal, in the year 1786, with a pension of 1s 1½d per diem, which he enjoyed for the space of fifty-five years, having thus received altogether about £1200. His wife was the daughter of [one who was the] the town drummer of Tain, about a century ago, and still survives, an aged woman of about eighty."

Ibid.—Mr James Smith, A.M., schoolmaster at Ardersier, died on the 13th ult. He was a teacher for 65 years, and was distinguished by his classical attainments and success in his work.—The death is also announced of the Rev. James Mein, pastor of the United Secession Church at Nairn.

July 14.—There was a contest in the counties of Elgin and Nairn between Major Cumming Bruce, Conservative, and General Duff, Liberal. Major Cumming Bruce was elected by a majority of 199. The contest in the Northern Burghs was between Mr James Loch, Liberal, and Mr Dempster of Skibo, Conservative, and Mr Loch was elected by a majority of 81. The following candidates were elected without opposition:—Mr Mackenzie of Applecross for

Ross-shire (Conservative); Mr Dundas for Sutherland (Liberal); and Mr Traill for Caithness (Liberal).

Ibid.—Two meetings were held in Inverness on the Church question. One was a county meeting, which, by a majority of 29 to 11, expressed sympathy with the Strathbogie ministers, and condemned the proceedings of the General Assembly. The other was a public meeting held in the East Church, which adopted a series of resolutions approving of the action of the Assembly in maintaining the principles of non-intrusion and spiritual independence.

Ibid.—The Inverness Sheep and Wool Fair was held the previous week. A murrain prevailed among the flocks in the South, and the market was anticipated with some apprehension. The results, however, proved satisfactory, though some large lots remained unsold. Prices were quoted as follows:—Cheviot wethers, 23s to 30s; ewes, 13s to 22s; lambs, 8s to 12s; blackfaced wethers, 16s to 22s; ewes, 9s to 11s; lambs, 6s to 8s. Cheviot wool, 15s to 16s 9d per stone; blackfaced do., 6s to 7s 6d.

July 21.—The Right Hon. J. A. Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth had been obliged, on account of his health, to retire from the office of Governor of Ceylon. Before his departure from the Colony he was entertained to a public dinner at Colombo, at which his services were warmly commended.

July 28.—The General Election was now over, and the Conservative majority in England far exceeded expectations. In Scotland, however, the Liberals had still the preponderance, 31 to 22. There had been gains and losses on this side the Tweed, the net Conservative gain being three.

Ibid.—The report of the Commissioners of the Caledonian Canal stated that they had been unable to effect a transfer on the terms suggested by the Select Committee. The winter of 1840-1 had been one of great severity and unusual fluctuation. "In the early part of December excessive rains prevailed, and Loch-Lochy rose for a short time above the mark which admits a passage at the Gairloch lock, a state of circumstances always giving cause for much anxiety. Intense frosts succeeded, which interrupted the navigation for about a

week at the end of the month, and again from the 6th to the 30th of January."

Ibid.—A public dinner was given at Forres to the defeated Liberal candidate, General Sir Alexander Duff. A similar compliment was paid at Dingwall to the member for the Northern Burghs, Mr Loch.

August 4.—A great improvement was this year effected in Darnaway forest, in the neighbourhood of the river Findhorn. About seventeen miles of walks had been constructed under the superintendence of the Hon. J. Stuart. One series of these walks led to the heronry. The nests of the herons were built on the branches of some old oak trees, overhanging the stream. "As many as forty nests are on one tree, and there are from two to three hundred birds. The number of herons is on the increase, probably because the noble proprietor is anxious to protect the once royal birds, and because the river and adjoining firth afford abundance of small trout and fry on which they feed. On the opposite side of the Findhorn is a steep, precipitous bank of light sandstone, with numerous holes and fissures, in which some scores of jackdaws have taken up their abode. These light infantry sometimes make war on the stately ranks of the herons, occasioning a din and turmoil that resound through the forest like a war of artillery, and we suppose they sometimes find their way into the capacious tree-rocked nests and steal the eggs." The heronry does not now survive, the herons about forty years ago having deserted the spot. The new walks above described gave access to a rude hut, which had been formerly used by the Sobieski Stuarts as an occasional place of refuge when out shooting. "The spot, though now laid open, was almost inaccessible, and completely unknown while tenanted by its romantic inmates."

Ibid.—In a jury trial, before the Lord-Justice Clerk, Mr Murdo Mackenzie of Dundonnell proved his right to the salmon fishing in the Bay of Gruinard.

Ibid.—The voluntary contributions for the relief of the poor in the parish of Inverness amounted only to about one-third of the sum required. At a statutory meeting held in the Gaelic Church, it was resolved that the friends

of the voluntary principle should use their efforts to raise a sufficient fund for the support of the poor for the ensuing six months.

Ibid.—Mr Dempster of Skibo was entertained to a public dinner at Tain, after his defeat as a candidate for the representation of the Northern Burghs. "As Tain enjoys the distinction of being the only one of the six in which the hon. gentleman was not in a minority, it was appropriately chosen as the theatre of this demonstration."

August 11.—The editor paid a visit to Stratherrick, and describes the lowering of the waters of Loch-Garth and Loch-Farraline, for the purpose of reclaiming swampy ground. It was in course of these operations that a bundle of fire-arms was found on the edge of Loch-Farraline. The story as now told is that the family nurse, after the battle of Culloden, carried all the guns in the house to the lake, and committed them to its safe keeping. "She had charge of the house in the absence of the family, and when the tide had turned against the young Chevalier, why should she expose the family to suspicion and danger by these relics of the fatal struggle? About a dozen guns, a sword, and some other weapons were thrown into the lake; and there they remained until the present summer. We saw two of the muskets in the house of Mr Fraser, Abersky; the wood is much decayed and gone, but the guns still preserve their shape—like veterans once bright and powerful, but rusted by years of inglorious retirement."

Ibid.—Reports from the moors were favourable, and it is reported that hundreds of sportsmen were waiting for the Twelfth of August. The rent of shootings had advanced. "One moor in this neighbourhood, for example, which last year let for £100, has this year brought £150, and numerous applications have been made too late."

August 18.—There is a report of a dinner given to Mr Henry J. Baillie on his return as member for the county of Inverness. The Hon. W. Fraser of Saltoun was in the chair.

Ibid.—There is a notice of Hugh Miller's work, "The Old Red Sandstone." The reviewer feels confident that the work is not ephemeral, and that its popularity will go on increasing, like Isaac Walton's *Angler* and White's *Natural History of Selborne*.

August 25.—“The Messrs Grant, merchants, Manchester, whose unwearied and princely charities have been drawn by Mr Charles Dickens in the character of the Brothers Cheeryble in *Nicholas Nickleby*, have presented our Infirmary with a handsome donation of one hundred pounds. Within the last three years these opulent merchants have distributed not less than £2000 in acts of charity and munificence in this county, through the agency of Mr Christie, Balmore. The Messrs Grant are natives of Strathspey, and amid all their prosperity and business have never forgotten the land of their fathers.”

September 1.—The new Parliament had assembled, and parties joined issue on the Address. After an animated debate, the Whig Government was defeated by a majority of 91.

Ibid.—The Commission of General Assembly held an extraordinary meeting the previous week to consider the ecclesiastical situation. There was a very large attendance of members. The result was to propose a conference with those members of the Church who adhered to Dr Cook's protestations. At the same time the editor drew the inference that Dr Chalmers looked for separation.

Ibid.—The bakers of Inverness had raised the price of the 4-lb. loaf one penny, making it tenpence.

September 8.—The change of Government had now taken place. Sir Robert Peel became Prime Minister, and the Duke of Wellington leader of the House of Lords. Lord Lyndhurst was Chancellor.

Ibid.—Mr Maitland Makgill Crichton was making a tour in the North, speaking on behalf of the Non-Intrusionists. He addressed a large meeting in the East Church, Inverness. In course of his address he criticised the Rev. Mr Clark, of the West Church, who had refused to concur in the deposition of the Strathbogie ministers, and had thus separated from the party with whom he had previously acted.

Ibid.—A sad case of drowning occurred on the previous Monday. Dr Basil Tytler, a nephew of Sheriff Fraser-Tytler, was in a boat on the river near Lady Saltoun's cottage. The river was swollen, and the boat, caught by a strong current, capsized. Dr Tytler was encumbered with angling boots, and was unable to save himself, while his companion managed to get

ashore. Great efforts were made to rescue the unfortunate man, but without avail. Intelligence of the accident reached the town, and hundreds of people assembled on the banks, some of whom attempted unsuccessfully to recover the body, which floated past. The deceased was a young man, about twenty-six years of age.

Ibid.—A correspondent in Stromness records that a great school of whales made their appearance in the third week of August, and 150 were driven ashore and killed. The aggregate value was estimated at £450.

September 15.—A note on the harvest recommends the use of the scythe for cutting the crops, reaping with the sickle being expensive and tedious. The scythe was now pretty generally used in England.

Ibid.—A Highland gathering, promoted by Lord Ward, was held in Glengarry. It was regarded as a novelty, and attracted a large attendance. A fuller notice of the gathering appears in the following issue, and a notice is given of the sport enjoyed by Lord Ward and his friends during the season. They had killed about a thousand brace of grouse, besides ptarmigan, roe, and red deer, and black game. One fine stag was killed weighing 27 stone 3 lbs.

September 22.—A show of Cheviot sheep was held at Altnaharrow, in Sutherland, on the 17th inst., the date of a cattle market there. The quality is described as very good. Nineteen lots were exhibited. The prizes went to Mr Clarke, Eriboll; Mr Mitchell, Ribigill; Mr Reed, Skelpick; and Messrs Atkinson and Marshall, Auchinduich. It may be noticed in passing that horticultural societies existed at this time in Inverness and other northern towns, and held successful exhibitions both in summer and autumn. A flower show held at Forres is reported in this issue.

September 29.—An account is given of riots which occurred at Durness, in Sutherland, in connection with the issue of warrants for eviction. In August the sheriff officer who carried the summonses was met by a large crowd of men and women who took his papers from him and burned them in his presence. On the 18th of September the sheriff-substitute, procurator-fiscal, and a party of sheriff officers and special constables went to Durness

to take further proceedings, but met with stout resistance. The people at night attacked Durine Inn, where they had put up, and compelled them to leave. The sheriff and fiscal "were compelled to retrace their steps to the nearest inn, about twenty miles distant, which they reached at 5 in the morning with half of their party. The remainder of the party concealed themselves in the standing corn and among the rocks, and made their escape when daylight broke." The summonses of removal had been issued at the instance of the local tacksman, who held under an old lease from Lord Reay, and had sublet part of the ground.

October 6.—There was discussion in Parliament at this time as to expenditure for improving the Caledonian Canal. The new Premier, Sir Robert Peel, had postponed consideration of the subject. An article in this issue dwells on the importance of the Canal for local and general purposes, and points out that the traffic upon it had been regularly and constantly increasing.

Ibid.—The Northern Meeting came off the previous week. Competitions in piping and dancing took place in the Academy Park, and athletic sports were held at the Longman. At one of the balls all the ladies were in fancy dresses—Spanish, Swiss, and ancient English costumes.

Ibid.—On the 2nd inst. Bell's institution in Faraline Park was opened by the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council. Provost Nicol mentioned that Bailie Macandrew had taken the labouring oar in carrying out the work of the Committee. Mr George Anderson had also given valuable assistance. Part of the funds under Dr Bell's trust had been appropriated to the support of the Central and Merkinch Schools.

October 20.—The Rev. Robert Macpherson, one of the ministers of the Inverness High Church, died at Ventnor, Isle of Wight, on the 6th inst., aged thirty-one. "The rev. gentleman had officiated amongst us for six years, and had endeared himself to his parishioners by his anxious endeavours to promote every scheme of practical benevolence and public improvement, as well as by the faithful discharge of his public duties." Rev. Mr Macdonald, who was then assistant to Dr Rose, and Rev. Simon

Mackintosh, formerly presentee to the parish of Daviot, were both suggested for the vacancy.

Ibid.—It is stated that Sir Edward Parry, a distinguished naval officer, had been appointed by Government to make a personal inquiry as regards the usefulness of the Caledonian Canal.

October 27.—At a county meeting in Inverness a memorial was adopted, urging the Government to carry out the works necessary to make the Caledonian Canal secure and serviceable to the public. The question of handing it over to a company was still discussed, but the meeting held that in any case the works should be adequately completed by the Government. The Canal was considered to be at the time in an imperfect and dangerous state. Sir Edward Parry had arrived, and was carrying on a survey along with Mr May, the resident engineer.

Ibid.—It is stated that the excitement in Durness had subsided, and that the tacksman had allowed his sub-tenants to remain in their houses till the following May term. The hope was expressed that something would be done in the interval for the people.

November 3.—There is a sketch of omnibus traffic in London, signed with the initials of Angus Bethune Reach. He mentions that there were then 700 omnibuses licensed to run within ten miles of the London Post-office. An article on old trees describes the fine chestnut at Castle Leod, the large ash at Earlsmill, the hawthorn tree in Cawdor Castle, and an old yew in Boleskine. The Earlsmill ash has since then succumbed to the gale. What about the Boleskine yew? It is described in 1841 as "about fourteen feet in circumference and thirty-three feet high."

Ibid.—The elections to the Inverness Town Council were conducted with less excitement than at any time since the passing of the Reform Bill. All the new members were Liberals. Provost Nicol was re-elected without solicitation or canvass.

Ibid.—Mr Charles Stewart, solicitor, presented his Commission as Clerk of the Peace to the county of Inverness. The Justices adopted a minute recording their appreciation of the services of Mr James Grant of Bught, who

had discharged the duties for 45 years, and had now resigned.

Ibid.—A note on deer-stalking in Harris mentions that the Earl of Dunmore and party had, during the season, killed ten stags, some of them weighing 20 stone.

November 10.—There is an interesting article on the rural and sporting statistics of the West Highlands. The harvest had been the most favourable for many years, and the crops were much above an average. There had also been a prosperous fishing season, especially in Lochalsh. The crop of grouse and deer had not been above an average, but the weather was pleasant. "It is difficult," says the writer, to come at a correct census of the quantity of game killed over an estate; but we hear that the Gairloch party had twelve or fifteen red deer, from fifty to seventy salmon (taken with the rod), and a corresponding quantity of grouse. The Lochcarron party have had about 1000 brace of grouse, four red deer, twelve roe, an immense number of salmon, hares, black cock, and 345 ptarmigan—a bird that abounds on that mountainous property. So late as the 25th of October we heard of one of the party killing twenty brace of ptarmigan in a forenoon. At Lochalsh the party killed nine or ten red deer, twice that number of roe, and from five to seven hundred brace of red and white grouse, besides a fair number of salmon with the rod. At Invergarry Lord Ward and party have had excellent sport. They had 1500 brace of grouse, fifty brace of ptarmigan, three red deer, and fifteen roe, besides about twenty salmon angled in the river Garry. Such are a few of the results. This new branch of trade or commerce has added greatly to the rental of many Highland estates. Instances are not rare of the shooting letting as high as the grazing of a mountain district. Some years ago there was much difficulty in coming at or determining upon a fair rent in an affair so purely ideal as the value of the sport over a property—the sportsman generally calculating upon the amount he could spend on the pastime, and the landlord taking all he could get. Things are, however, verging towards a bearing on this head, and the yearly marketable value of the sport over a Highland property may at present be reckoned at some-

thing like the following rate, grouse being the unit or standard of value, viz. :—

One red deer equal to 100 brace of grouse.

One roe deer equal to 20 brace do.

One salmon angled equal to 20 brace do.

One mountain hare equal to 1 brace do.

One brace of grouse being valued at 5s.

"Thus a shooting supposed capable of producing, on an average of seasons, with fair sportsmen, 500 brace of grouse, would let for £125. If the house accommodation is good, or the moor of high reputation, a larger sum may be obtained, and we have known 10s a brace offered for a month's shooting." It is added that fifteen years' purchase was considered the value of the game on an estate. The writer thinks that all fear of the sport being only the fashion of a day might be set aside.

Ibid.—The results of municipal elections and appointments to the magistracy are recorded. Dr Nicol was re-elected Provost of Inverness, Mr Hugh Innes Cameron was Provost of Dingwall, and Mr William Watson Provost of Cromarty. The Liberals had obtained a majority in the Forres Town Council, and Mr Robert Urquhart was elected Provost. "We congratulate the burgh," says the editor, "on obtaining the services of Mr Urquhart as Provost—he will be a great acquisition to the burgh, and his election reflects credit on the constituency and Council."

November 17.—The birth of the Prince of Wales (King Edward) on the 9th inst. is announced in the present issue. The happy event was celebrated by rejoicings in Inverness and other places.

Ibid.—There is a further account of the Durness disturbance. With reference to the first visit of the Sheriff-Substitute and his party, it is stated that they arrived on the Saturday evening, and a communication was made to them that if they abstained from acting until Monday, the people would disperse and the individuals whom they wished to take into custody would be delivered up. The authorities, however, declined to make any promise. "This determination increased the irritation and excitement of the crowd, and they were peremptorily required to take their departure—the people preferring, as they themselves

stated, to break the law of man on the Saturday, to the commission of a breach of the law of God by resisting the execution of the law of God on the Sunday; and depart they accordingly did, in considerable alarm, but without a hair of their heads being touched." There was afterwards a talk of sending a military force, but the Lord Advocate, Sir William Rae, declined, and despatched one of his deputies to accompany the Sheriff and other officials on a second visit to the district. "This was done, and as all who possessed any correct knowledge of the character and temper of the people foresaw, they did not meet with the slightest molestation. The business was investigated coolly and carefully. The parties in the wrong acknowledged their error; and the result is understood to be that, upon an impartial and humane view of the whole matter, the counsel for the Crown have come to the conclusion that there are not sufficient grounds for a criminal prosecution." Another account appears at a later date, denying that on the occasion of the first visit the people had offered to give up the incriminated parties on Monday. Several of the officers, it is also alleged, were knocked down and hurt.

November 24.—"Died, at Tullich Farm, Inveraray, on the 8th inst., Duncan Munro, aged 108 years, the oldest tenant on the Argyll estate. He and his forefathers have possessed the same farm above 300 years. Duncan has lived to see four Dukes, and was lately, by his own desire, visited by the heir apparent to the Dukedom. His eldest daughter, aged 80, has a large family residence upon a farm within eight miles of Tullich. She is still able to milk the cows, to go about and visit on foot her father's house. His youngest son alive, a feuar in Paisley, upwards of 70, is hale, stout, and hearty; has resided in Paisley 50 years."

December 8.—On the previous Thursday the tenantry and friends of Mr Hugh Rose of Kilravoch entertained him to a public dinner on the occasion of a visit to his property after spending thirteen years in India. The entertainment was held at Clephanton, and was attended by a large company.

December 15.—The Rev. Simon Mackintosh, who had given up the presentation to the parish of Daviot, was appointed to succeed

the Rev. Mr Macpherson, of the third charge, in Inverness. The Rev. John Clark was presented to Daviot.

Ibid.—Mr Charles Shaw, W.S., factor for Lord Macdonald, was appointed Sheriff-Substitute of the Long Island, and was succeeded in the management of the Skye estates by Mr W. A. Mackinnon, Corry.

December 29.—In the month of August Dr Balfour, Professor of Botany in the University of Glasgow, accompanied by scientific friends and a party of students, made a botanical tour through the Outer Hebrides. The results were submitted to the botanical Society of Edinburgh, and were now published. No new species were discovered, but the visit was interesting as showing how the position of the islands checked and moderated the effects of cold. In Harris scarcely a true Alpine plant was found.

Ibid.—On the 20th inst. a sharp shock of earthquake was felt in Kintail. There was nothing peculiar in the state of the weather, except a stillness in the atmosphere, which, however, was not uncommon.



APPENDIX.

NOTE A.

THE MORAY FLOODS.

The late Mr Joseph Mitchell, C.E., an engineer of marked ability and distinction, superintended for many years the works of the Parliamentary Commission for Highland Roads and Bridges. He was in Kirkwall in August 1829, when the Moray Floods occurred, and records that he experienced there an unexampled deluge of rain and a perfect hurricane. On his return home he found a scene of widespread destruction, and he has left the following succinct account of the disaster:—"They [the floods] occurred chiefly along the south shores of the Moray Firth, in the valleys of the Nairn, the Findhorn, the Spey, the Don, and the Dee. Serious damage had been done to the public works, and the roads and bridges under the charge of the Commissioners. The magnificent bridge across the Spey at Fochabers, and the bridge over the Findhorn at Forres, both on the great coast road, were destroyed. The bridge of five arches over the Dee at Bal-later, the bridge of three arches at Corrybrough over the Findhorn, the bridge of Carr over the Dulnan, the bridges of Kirk-ton, of Alford, of Craggan, and Dava, and many others of smaller size, were totally swept away. The beautiful iron arch of 150 feet span at Craigellachie was much endangered, one of the abutments damaged, and three side arches destroyed. The pier of a 70-feet arch of the large bridge at Grantown was undermined, and the roads were cut up and damaged very seriously for miles in various parts of the country. The damage to private property—to trees, crops, stock, dwellings, and outbuildings was very great. Whole fields were torn up and covered with the debris carried down by the floods." Sir Thomas Dick Lauder gives a picturesque and detailed account of the calamitous visitation. He mentions that the heat in the province of Moray during the previous three months had been unusually great, causing an excessive drought, and that as the season ad-

vanced the fluctuations of the barometer became very remarkable. "The deluge of rain," he says, "that produced the flood of the 3rd and 4th of August, fell chiefly on the Monadh-liadh mountains, rising between the south-eastern parts of Loch-Ness and Kingussie in Badenoch, and on that part of the Grampian range forming the somewhat independent group of the Cairngorms. The westerly winds, which prevailed for some time previously, seem to have produced a gradual accumulation of vapour somewhere north of our island, and the column being suddenly impelled by a strong north-easterly blast, it was driven towards the south-west, its right flank almost sweeping the Caithness and Sutherland coasts, until rushing up and across the Moray Firth, it was attracted by the lofty mountains I have mentioned, and discharged in torrents perfectly unexampled." Sir Thomas mentions that the storm was felt at Wick and Kirkwall, though not to anything like the same extent as in the province of Moray and other districts associated with the mountain ranges above-mentioned.

NOTE B.

CHARLES GRANT, M.P.

The *Life of Charles Grant, M.P.*, written by Mr Henry Morris, of the Madras Civil Service, and published by John Murray (London, 1904), enables us to revise and supplement some of the particulars which were given in the first volume. Charles Grant was born not on the day of the battle of Culloden, as was long supposed, but a short time before, namely, in March 1746. His father was in Prince Charles's army, and was severely wounded at Culloden, but escaped, and remained in concealment until the search for prisoners came to an end. At a later date he joined a Highland regiment, and died in 1762 from fever contracted at the siege of Havana. His son Charles was educated at Elgin by his uncle, his father's youngest brother, who held an appointment in the Excise. The boy attended school till he was nearly thirteen years of age, and was then taken as an apprentice by Mr William Forsyth, a merchant and shipowner in Cromarty, where he served between four and five years. In March 1763, being then seventeen, he left Cromarty for London, to enter the counting house of a cousin, Captain Alexander Grant, who had previously served under Clive in India. He sailed from Cromarty with only half-a-guinea in his pocket, and was a fortnight on the voyage. In his cousin's employment he remained for several years, becoming head clerk in the firm. In the summer of 1767 he departed for India, having received encouragement and assistance from directors and friends in the East India Company, one of them being Mr Becher, with whom he was afterwards closely associated. The young man—he was now but twenty-one—must have impressed these influential friends with a sense of his ability and integrity. He received the nominal appointment of cadet, but this was only for the voyage out, to comply with the regulations which then existed about going to India. On arriving at Calcutta, Grant was placed in charge of Mr Becher's private business. The

latter was at the time a Member of Council, and was soon afterwards appointed Political Resident at Moorshedabad, to which Grant accompanied him. When they were there a terrible famine broke out, in the alleviation of which Becher and his young assistant worked hard. Owing to failure of health, both returned to England in 1771. In the end of 1772 Grant obtained a writership in the service of the East India Company, and before he sailed in 1773 he married Jane Fraser, a member of the Balnain family. "It was," we are told, "a singularly happy union. Mrs Grant was very young, being scarcely seventeen years of age, and he was only ten years older. They were a handsome couple." Grant's first appointment after his return to India was as Secretary to the Board of Trade. For a time he was friendly with Sir Philip Francis, and generally disapproved of the administration of Warren Hastings. At first he threw himself into the gaiety and dissipation of social life in Calcutta. His scrupulous integrity, however, remained unimpaired even when he got into debt. The vital religious change which came over his character followed the death of two children, young daughters, who were carried off by smallpox in 1776. A visit to the Rev. J. C. Diemer, a missionary connected with the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, brought him final peace, and he was ever afterwards a deeply pious man, eager to promote every form of evangelical effort. In December 1780 he was appointed Commercial Resident at Malda, where he made his fortune. There he was so exact in his intrusions as to receive the special commendation of Lord Cornwallis, who went out as Governor-General in 1786. In 1787 Lord Cornwallis appointed him a Member of the Board of Trade. In 1790, on account of illness in his family, he returned to this country, finally closing his career in India. In subsequent years he was a director and Chairman of the East India Company, and from 1802 to 1818 M.P. for the County of Inverness. At his first Parliamentary election he had to stand a severe contest in the limited constituency which then existed. There was a triangular fight between Grant, Fraser of Lovat, and Forbes of Culloden, the result being as follows:—Grant, 15; Lovat, 11; Culloden, 6. The election expenses of the successful candidate, including his journey northward, came to £600. Before the

contest came off he had purchased the estate of Waternish in Skye for £16,000. Grant retained the seat without further contest until he retired in 1818 in favour of his son, Charles Grant, junior, afterwards Lord Glenelg. He died in 1823. The careers of his sons, Lord Glenelg and Sir Robert Grant, are sketched in the first volume.

NOTE C.

NO POPERY RIOT IN 1829.

The following graphic account of a "No Popery" riot which occurred in Inverness in 1829 was given by a correspondent in our columns in 1870:—

Perhaps nowhere was the anti-Catholic spirit of a community more strongly manifested than by the inhabitants of Inverness during the progress of the Catholic Emancipation Bill. At that time the Right Hon. Charles Grant (afterwards Lord Glenelg), M.P. for the county, being on a visit to the town, a bitter feeling of dissatisfaction with the right hon. gentleman was felt by the people; and they secretly determined to show their displeasure by publicly burning him in effigy, Hughie Macbean, an enthusiastic young townsman, undertaking to produce the inanimate member at the time and place appointed. Appropriating for that purpose a suit of his father's clothes, he took them to a garret in High Street, where they were nicely stuffed up with paper shavings and a volume or two, in sheets, of Grant on the Gael, Fraser on Isaiah, and Knockie's Strathspeys and Reels adapted for the Pianoforte—all works of merit, but which an undiscerning public had left on the publisher's hands to moulder away in his lumber garret. Meanwhile the watchword was secretly but widely spread, and about eight o'clock straggling parties might be seen coming from all directions and sauntering along towards the Lochgorm, where ultimately they amounted to some hundreds. In due time the effigy was produced, and before the authorities were in the least aware of what was going on, the crowd moved in a body through High Street, carrying the effigy ignominiously along

with a large placard bearing the words "Catholic Emancipation Bill" pinned to its breast. On arriving at the Exchange or Market Cross, the effigy was tied to a stake (or lamp-post), and a pile of shavings being ignited, it was soon reduced to ashes, amid the shouting, yelling, and "No Popery" cries of the crowd. But for a single incident the affair might have all ended here. The town's officers during the tumult locked themselves up in the police-office—then a small crib at the south-west corner of the Exchange (next door to "Skelpan's" shop)—but when the noise had somewhat subsided, to show their employers that they were doing something, they sallied out and captured a young lad as prisoner, carrying him into their stronghold. But in five minutes the door was smashed and the captive set free. Exulting in this triumph over the "beagles," the mob moved down to the Caledonian Hotel in Church Street, where Mr Grant had taken up his quarters. They here commenced shouting for him to appear in his proper person, and answer for his conduct; but instead of responding to this request, the door of the hotel was shut up and all the lights extinguished. This was taken as a signal of defiance of the mob; and with missiles of every description all the front windows of that old-established hotel were shattered to atoms. Not satisfied with this, they next proceeded to the Catholic Chapel—then a plain building in Margaret Street—which was broken into and some damage done. After this the mob went to the School Hill, and burned to the ground a useful wooden building which had long stood there, after which they dispersed. The town, of course, had to pay the piper for the damage done; but like those connected with the Porteous mob, the real ringleaders were not found out. The artist of the effigy, however, did not escape altogether scatheless, and while undergoing punishment from his father for the loss of his clothes, he told the old gentleman in extenuation that, instead of being angry, he should only be very proud that Mr Grant, the member of Parliament, had worn his clothes! "Weel, weel," exclaimed the old man, and the incorrigible escaped further molestation. But Mr Grant was destined not long to remain in "disgrace," for on his next visit to Inverness,

for his advocacy of reform, the "Sleeping Lion" was chaired in triumph, with music and banners, through all the streets of the town—the people being proud of this opportunity of showing that "still they lo'ed their Charlie." His two reverend supporters, the Rev. Donald Fraser, Kirkhill, and Mr Beith, were also extremely popular, as also the laird of Mackintosh.

NOTE D.

THE OLD CASTLE OF INVERNESS.

We gave in our first volume a picture of the ruins of the old Castle of Inverness as they appeared between the years 1790 and 1800. The picture was communicated to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1823, and is preserved in the *Archæologia Scotica*. It shows the ruins of the old Castle which was blown up by Prince Charlie's French engineer in 1746. Some further particulars may be useful.

In the *Archæologia*, the paper which accompanies the picture is entitled "Notice respecting Macbeth's Castle at Inverness by Colonel Grahame." This title is, of course, a mistake. The Castle had no pretension to be called Macbeth's Castle, but was in fact the last of a series of fortified buildings which had stood on the present Castle Hill. The notice, though written by Colonel Grahame, was communicated to the Society by one of the Fellows, Mr H. W. Williams, and read at a meeting on 18th November 1823. Mr Williams, in a note addressed to Mr Thomas Kinnear, says:—

"Castle Street, Monday.

"My Dear Sir,—I was on a visit to a friend the other day, who, on looking among his papers, found a description of Macbeth's Castle at Inverness, accompanied by a drawing of it as it appeared about thirty years ago. The drawing is very rude, to be sure; but, still, it greatly assists the description. Both were done by a Colonel Grahame, who lives near the village of Duddingston; and, supposing that this little account of the Castle

might be acceptable to you to present to the Antiquarian Society, give me leave to enclose it in this note."

Colonel Grahame, in his account, which accompanies his drawing, claims no other merit for his sketch except that it is "a tolerably correct resemblance." He states that the view was taken from the south-west, on the west side of the river Ness. He then describes the drawing:—

"What is betwixt and beneath the two chimneys are the remains of the ancient Castle. The ground floor was vaulted; the upper floors were of timber; and the roof, when last inhabited, was flat and leaded and surrounded by a low parapet. Within the north entrance a handsome stone stair led to the upper floors. The walls were of great thickness, and almost entirely composed of that mixture of lime and small stones of every shape, frequently met with in structures of very ancient erection; a composition which resembled one compact mass of hard stone or flint, appearing capable of resisting the impressions of weather and of time. In each of the chambers exposed in the three upper floors, there was an alcove or recess, partially discovered in this view, formed in the thickness of the north wall of the Castle, of sufficient dimensions to contain a bed."

The writer adds that tradition pointed out one of the alcoves as "that in which King Duncan was murdered by Macbeth"—so curiously does legend seek to connect itself with visible remains. Piles of rubbish appear to right and left of the ruins, and it is mentioned that when the old Castle was blown up a fragment of it fell on the slope of the hill and remained there. "The part of the hill to the right was covered with good grass—to the left it was rather bare and sandy, on which were dispersed many plants of balm, and the remains of patches of sweet herbs, planted there by the officers of the garrison." In 1828 Mr John Anderson, W.S., made Colonel Grahame's notes the text of another paper to the Society, in which he corrects some historical mistakes, and mentions that Mr Godsmen, factor to the Duke of Gordon at Inverness, completed the work of destruction, which the Highlanders began in 1746, by removing walls from the Castle to build dykes. "He took away, much to the chagrin

of the gentlemen of the town (as a venerable lady resident there has informed me), a carved stone bearing an inscription commemorative of the era when the Castle was erected. My informant, when a little girl at school, was often promised a reward by her father if she could discover this stone in any of the dykes; and many were the anxious and fruitless researches she made in consequence. She never learned that it had been found." The late Joseph Mitchell, C.E., (born in 1803), speaking of his boyhood, says — "The remains of the Castle consisted of some perpendicular walls, still in existence on the Castle Street side of the hill, and the ruins of the old Castle on the top of the hill, six or eight feet above the ground. On them was fixed a tall flagstaff, on which the Royal ensign was hoisted on the King's birthdays, Sundays, and holidays."

The terrace which forms part of the town of Inverness has no doubt, at some part, been the site of fortification ever since a community gathered at the spot. It is generally supposed that Macbeth's Dun stood near the ground now occupied by Victoria Terrace, and known in ancient documents as the Auld Castle Hill. According to tradition, Malcolm Canmore destroyed this stronghold and set up a fortification on the present Castle Hill. At any rate, there are authentic notices of a castle existing at Inverness under the kings who reigned before the War of Independence. We may with reasonable certainty assume that since the time of William the Lion, perhaps from an earlier date, the Castle stood where our County Buildings still stand. Bruce appears to have demolished the first Norman Castle, in conformity with his well-known policy. When it was next rebuilt it is difficult to say. We know, however, that in 1412 the Earl of Mar, the leader of the Royal army at the battle of Harlaw, erected a strong castle for the defence of the country against the Lord of the Isles. In the sixteenth century the building was enlarged and strengthened by the Earls of Huntly. In 1726 General Wade made further additions, so as to provide barracks for six companies of soldiers and lodgings for officers. The picture of the Castle given by P. Sandby, R.A., in 1744, the year before the Jacobite Rising, shows it to have been a handsome range of buildings. This

was the edifice blown up in 1746. The work of demolition was fatal to the French engineer, a sergeant of artillery, who undertook it. "This unfortunate individual, believing the match extinguished, approached to examine it, when the mine sprung, which blew him into the air, with the stones of the bastions, to an immense height." According to another version the engineer and his dog were thrown across the river to the Little Green; the man was killed and the dog survived!

After the suppression of the Rebellion the Government did not rebuild the fortress at Inverness, but erected instead a new Fort-George at the Point of Ardersier. Inverness Castle remained in ruins, gradually disappearing by the removal of stones for such base purposes as the building of dykes. "Nonagenarian" (whose *Reminiscences* were published during his lifetime in 1842) says that the keep, with other parts, remained in tolerable preservation long after his birth; that the walls were much higher than the towers of the present Castle, and the rooms spacious and lofty. Before 1823 the Castle hill was bare. Writing, as we have noted, in 1828, Mr John Anderson says—"The summit where the Castle stood has been levelled, and a portion of wall between Castle Street is the only relic of the fortress." The foundation-stone of the present County Buildings was laid in May 1834, and the foundation-stone of the prison in 1846. Now a new prison has been erected at Porterfield, and the cells of the old prison have been transformed into offices. The buildings form a handsome pile, and give a striking aspect to the Castle Hill.

A few notes may be added. Colonel Grahame, in the paper mentioned above, says that, when the buildings stood intact, they formed a square, "containing a house for the Governor and barracks for officers and soldiers; the old Castle forming part of the south side of the square, and being the Fort-Major's residence. There was also a chapel and some other modern buildings on the south side of the Castle; and ramparts encompassed the hill along the riverside and behind Bridge Street and Castle Street." He also says that "a small portion of these ramparts appears at the side of the river in this view." This is a statement that requires further investigation. In the view of 1744 there is no wall round the hill, but

there is a wall enclosing the Castle on its own level. Probably there was a wall at the riverside to prevent the sand from running. Burt in his time (about 1730) says that the workmen in widening the space between the hill and the river one evening loosened the gravel and it began running in course of the night, causing great alarm. There was a fear that the Castle "would be down before morning." However, he adds, "the town masons and soldiers soon ran up a dry wall against the foot of the hill (for stones are everywhere at hand in this country) which furnished them with the hasty means to prevent the fall." No doubt a stronger wall was afterwards erected.

Nonagenarian records that in his youth he had a narrow escape. "About seventy-one years ago, I was standing at five o'clock one summer's morning, leaning against the western wall of the Castle viewing and admiring the beautiful scenery around me, and had not left my position scarcely a minute when the wall against which I had just been leaning fell with a tremendous crash, portions of it rolling into the river." This happened about 1771.

NOTE E.

SALES OF GREAT PROPERTIES.

During the period several great Highland properties changed hands. The Reay or Mackay country, in the county of Sutherland, was sold in 1829 to the Marquis of Stafford, first Duke of Sutherland, for the sum of £300,000, which, in the opinion of the late Evander Maciver, "was much more than its value at the time." The district included three Highland parishes, Tongue, Durness, and Eddrachilis, covering an area of about 400,000 acres. The Duke of Sutherland, after becoming proprietor, expended large sums in making roads, effecting improvements in land, and erecting farmhouses and shooting-lodges. The present Duke has sold part of the property to Mr Gilmour, Dumbarton. The great estates of the Duke of Gordon in Badenoch and Lochaber were sold during the thirties, passing into various hands. After the death of the last famous chief of Glengarry, in 1828, it was found that his estates were heavily burdened, and they

were sold by his trustees and his son. In 1840 Glenquoich was purchased by Mr Edward Ellice for £32,000, and Glengarry by Lord Ward for £91,000. Twenty years later Mr Ellice added Glengarry to his Glenquoich estate, paying for it £120,000, and thus acquiring a splendid stretch of country from Loch-Oich westward. The property of Knoydart remained in the Glengarry family until a later date. The only possessions then retained by the representatives of the ancient house were the site and ruins of the old castle and the family burying-ground. Macdonald of Clanranald was another great chief who lost his possessions during the nineteenth century. The History of Clan Donald, by the ministers of Killearnan and Kiltarlity, gives the following list of sales by the last proprietor, Ranald George Macdonald:—

| | | | |
|--|----------|----|---|
| 1813. Lochans—sold to Alexander Macdonald, Esq. of Dalilea..... | £3,054 | 0 | 0 |
| 1813. Dalilea—sold to Alex. Macdonald of Glenaladale..... | 8,960 | 0 | 0 |
| Island of Shona—sold to Alex. Macdonald of Glenaladale..... | 6,100 | 0 | 0 |
| Island of Muck—sold to Alex. McLean of Coll..... | 9,997 | 11 | 7 |
| 1826. Estate of Arisaig—sold to Lady Ashburton's Trustees..... | 48,950 | 0 | 0 |
| Superiority of Bornish—sold to Lady Ashburton's Trustees..... | 850 | 0 | 0 |
| Island of Eligg—sold to Dr Macpherson | 14,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Island of Canna—sold to Don. MacNeill | 9,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 1827. Lands of Moidart—sold to Major Allan Nicolson Macdonald..... | 9,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Shealfishings—sold to Alexander Macdonald of Rhue..... | 800 | 0 | 0 |
| Lands of Kenchreggan—sold to Colonel Cameron..... | 8,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 1838. South Uist and Benbecula—sold to Col. Gordon..... | 96,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Total..... | £214,211 | 11 | 7 |

The failure of the kelp industry affected Clanranald more, perhaps, than any other western proprietor. The chief survived until 1873, when he died at the advanced age of 85. His son was a distinguished officer, the late Admiral Sir Reginald Macdonald, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., who received many honours in recognition of his public services. The family for many years retained the island and Castle of Tirrim as its sole possession, but they were sold in 1905 to Lord Howard of Glossop. In 1840 Colonel Gordon of Cluny purchased for £38,050 the island of Barra from the trustees of Colonel Macneil. In the same year the estate of Inverlochy was purchased by Lord Abinger for £75,150. Other interesting sales are recorded in the present volume.

NOTE F.

RISE AND FALL IN SHEEP-FARMING.

The late Evander Maciver, who went to be factor for the Duke of Sutherland in 1845, writes in his *Reminiscences*:—"Sheep farming had been since the peace of 1815 a very unprofitable business; most of the tenants had died or had abandoned their farms, and the landlords were obliged in many instances to take the farms into their own hands and farm them on their own account; the price of wool was very low. But from 1832 both sheep and wool rose in price, and it became a more profitable business, and tenants of large farms began to make money, especially after 1840, and from that date to 1875 a great deal of money was made all over Scotland by sheep-farmers." Judging by entries in our columns, there were some good years even in the early period. Mr Maciver adds that after 1875 prices of wool and sheep fell, and the rents, which had risen largely—which "in some cases were more than doubled"—could not be maintained. The tenants made representations to the factor, and the Duke of Sutherland asked him to consider what reductions he would recommend. This he did to the satisfaction of the sheep-farmers, who were delighted that the reductions had been made spontaneously. Mr Maciver mentions that during the prosperous period "the rents of the small tenants or crofters remained much the same as they had been for many years before."

NOTE G.

HIGHLAND EVICTIONS.

Evictions in the Highlands on a historic scale may be said to have occurred at two separate periods, the first prior to 1820, the second after 1839-40. The first were probably the most trying, the second, which occurred when the press was active and influential, attracted more immediate and widespread attention. Between 1820 and

1840 there was a great deal of emigration, how far voluntary and how far enforced it is hard to say. The economic condition of considerable areas in the Highland mainland, and still more in the Islands, was undoubtedly serious, all the worse after the suppression of smuggling and the ruin of the kelp industry. Both proprietors and tenants suffered. The extension of sheep-farming coming alongside an increase of population, aggravated the distress of the small holders. No one can deny that changes were necessary, but they were hasty and ill considered, possibly precipitated by financial necessities. The destitution which became acute about 1836, and culminated ten years later in the potato famine, intensified the trouble. Removals which it is difficult to account for occurred on the Chisholm estates in Strathglass in 1831. They occasioned little outside comment, because the tenants were well to do and made no disturbance, and because they were accommodated with holdings in the neighbourhood by Lord Lovat. The chief evictions in Strathglass took place in 1802 and 1803. Mrs Gooden, whose visit is referred to in 1834, had proved a warm friend of the tenantry.

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